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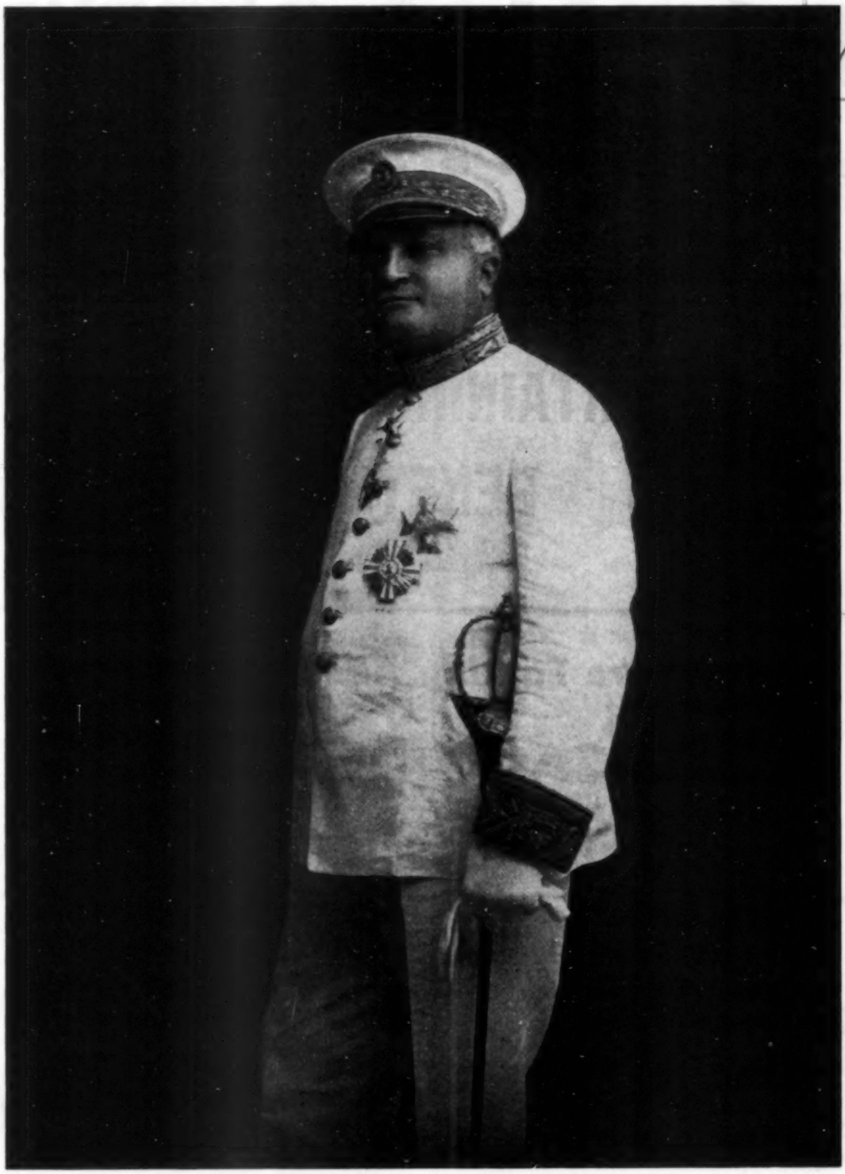

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College and School News

Hugh M. Gloster, professor of English at **LeMoyne College,** has accepted a professorship in the English Department of Morehouse College. He recently completed requirements for the Ph.D. degree in English at New York University.

New instructors at **Dillard University** are Miss Julia Baxter (English), A.B. Rutgers and M.A. Columbia; Charles C. Colman (Music), Fisk U. and Louisville Municipal College; Elmer W. Henderson (Anthropology), A.B. Morgan College and M.A. Univ. of Chicago; and Leonard H. James (Economics), A.B. Morehouse, M.A. Atlanta. Instructors returning to the staff are Mrs. Lucile Jackson Segre (Homemaking) and Julius S. Miller (Physics and Mathematics).

Dr. A. J. R. Shumaker, Philadelphia, A.B., A.M., LL.D., Marietta College, is new head of Social Science work at **Storer College.** Mrs. Chas. Iley, A.B. Warrensburg State Teachers College, A.M. Boston Univ., will do work in Education. A number of Storer men have been called to the colors.

The new Dean of Women at **Wiley College** is Miss Isabelle Ferguson, former House Director of Women and Personnel Advisor at Fisk Univ. Dr. C. C. Cox has been granted leave for the first quarter to complete his book on "Caste System in the British West Indies" (Trinidad).

The Harriet Tubman House, new dormitory for women at **Morgan State College,** opened with the new term. This year Morgan will admit all soldiers and sailors in uniform free to all athletic contests.

New members of the **Shaw University** faculty are Mrs. Lucile Young Mayo (Elem. Educ.) B.S. South Carolina State College and A.M. Columbia Univ.; Miss Mae Sophronia Tate (Home Econ.) B.S. Cheyney Teachers College and M.A., Columbia Univ., formerly instructor in the Bishop Tuttle School of Social Service; and Barnett J. Grier (Physics), B.S. and M.A., John-

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son C. Smith Univ. and Univ. of Michigan.

James W. Butcher, Jr., instructor in English at **Howard University**, has been appointed as a dramatic coach to develop amateur theatricals among the 6,000 troops stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. He has been director of the Howard Players since 1937.

Registration for "Freshman Week" began on September 12. The university formally opened on September 23, with 2,623 students.

Thirty-three students received degrees at the opening of the Summer Convocation of **West Virginia State College's** fiftieth year. The commencement speaker was Dr. George Herman Canady, Associate Professor of Psychology and Philosophy.

Six new appointments to the staff of **Hampton Institute** have been announced by Dr. Malcolm S. MacLean, the President. They are: Robert B. Carlson (auto mechanics departments); Cortlyn B. Antonson (dry cleaning); Mrs. Leonora Williams (asst. prof. Home Econ.); Mrs. Nellie Lawlah Alexander (Elem. teachers course); Dr. George B. D. Stephens (school physician); Miss Florence Louise Treherne (school nurse); Miss Alice I. Russell (dietitian); and P. G. Vick (Defense mechanics). Seven faculty members have resigned or been pensioned.

W. E. Carter, Director of the Division of Trades and Industries, has been granted a year's leave of absence to accept the post of Regional Agent in Defense Training for the U. S. Office of Education in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Technical Institute.

A national competition to discover two outstanding Negro high school graduates with creative ability in the field of art will be conducted annually by Hampton Institute. Winners of the competition will be awarded fellowships to study art at the Tidewater Virginia college. Each fellowship is valued at $300. Contestants should immediately dispatch samples of their original art work to Viktor Lowenfeld of the Hampton art department.

A $300,000 Negro hospital for Newport News has been designed by William H. Moses, Jr., acting chairman of the Hampton building construction department.

Hampton is conducting a national survey of Negro cooperatives in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U. S. Department of Labor.

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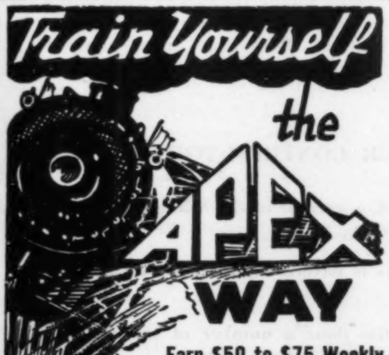

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Several thousand dollars have been made available for student-aid loan fund for worthy and needy students who show exceptional promise.

Tuskegee Institute has been authorized as a Senior R.O.T.C. Infantry unit, thus joining Wilberforce and Howard universities. It had previously been operated as Junior R.O.T.C. Advanced R.O.T.C. students will be exempt from the draft. For the year 1941-42 only Tuskegee Juniors are eligible for the advanced course.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Miss Harriet Elliott, associate administrator of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, in charge of the Consumer Division, has announced appointments of Sunie Steele, of Trenton, N. J., and Mrs. Laura R. Daly, of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, as regional representatives to work with Negro groups for the Consumer division. Miss Steele will contact consumers in the area for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, Delaware, Michigan, and Kentucky. Mrs. Daly will work in the South Atlantic Seaboard area, and in Alabama and Mississippi.

"Our representatives are charged with a four-fold service," Miss Elliott said. "(1) They will explain the OPACS program to the consuming public and point out the ways in which the public can cooperate with national defense in their selection, purchase, and use of civilian goods. (2) They will make available to consumers in their regions educational materials and information from this office on the problems of price, supply, substitute materials, and conservation methods. (3) They will help consumers to help themselves through the use of all available local and state facilities for raising standards of living, facilities such as surplus distribution channels, school lunch programs, low-cost milk depots, local food preservation campaigns, use of city markets, etc. And, finally, and very important to us, they will keep us informed in detail of the effects of the Defense Program on the standard of living of the civilian population of the various regions throughout the country."

Miss Steele and Mrs. Daly will be directly responsible to Miss Francis H. Williams, Assistant to the Chief, Contacts Section, Consumer Division of OPACS.

Miss Steele, a graduate of Wilberforce University, was formerly general secretary of the Montgomery Street Branch, Y.W.C.A., Trenton. She has also served as a Jeanes Supervisor in Kentucky and as Girl Reserve Secretary of the Germantown Branch Y.W.C.A., Germantown.

Prior to her appointment to the Consumer Division, Mrs. Daly was a home demonstration agent for Macon county, Alabama, where Tuskegee Institute is located. She is a graduate of Hampton Institute and has worked in the Extension Service since 1917.

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910. *It is published monthly at* 69 *Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by Crisis Publishing Company, Inc., and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15c *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March* 3, 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*

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NEXT MONTH

The second of three articles by Harold Preece under the general title, "The South Stirs," will appear next month. It will deal with the fight for civil rights.

There will be also the article previously promised on the work of Dr. Charles Drew with the now famous Blood Bank.

The November number of course, will have the usual features: stories, book reviews, poems and pictures.

•

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. L. D. Reddick is curator of the Schomburg Collection of the New York Public library.

Dowdal H. Davis is advertising manager of *The Call* of Kansas City, Mo.

Harold Preece has done a number of articles for *The Crisis* during the past few years. He formerly lived in Texas but now resides in New York. Charlotte B. Crump is the director of publicity for the NAACP.

William A. Brower was graduated in journalism from Wilberforce university in 1939. He has been doing free lance writing and at present lives in Wilmington, N. C.

Vernon Winslow is a Chicago artist. O. C. W. Taylor lives in New Orleans.

•

Editorials

Editor, ROY WILKINS
Advisory Board: Lewis Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn, Sterling A. Brown, William Allen Neilson, Walter White, Carl Murphy, John Hammond

Vicious Circle—Still

BRAVE pronouncements have been made by the government against discrimination in employment and job training. Mr. Roosevelt has issued the logical supplement to his executive order of last June 25 in the form of a letter to all government agencies calling for "immediate steps" by them to eliminate racial discrimination in employment. It was inevitable that the government would have to take this step since it was forbidding holders of defense contracts to practice discrimination.

But hard on the heels of the President's two orders come disturbing reports from the states of Oklahoma and New Jersey. The state directors of WPA in these two commonwealths are both quoted in the Negro press in considerable detail as having declared they were restricting the training of Negro workers in WPA classes "because private industry will not hire them and there is no need to train people who cannot be employed."

The New Jersey director is said to have made his statement to the Atlantic City branch of the NAACP, and the Oklahoma director to have given an interview in Muskogee to a group including Editor Roscoe Dunjee of the Oklahoma City *Black Dispatch*.

The CRISIS believes these two men and any others following such a policy are violating specific orders from the White House. We believe their policy should be corrected by John Carmody, Federal Works Agency Director, under whom the WPA functions. Such a policy would freeze Negro workers on the unskilled labor level by denying them the training provided by the tax money of all the people.

We are aware of the argument that the defense needs are so great that training classes must be reserved for those who can get employment. But unless the executive order of June 25 is a fake and the machinery of the Fair Employment Practice Committee but an elaborate pretense, the resistance against the employment of Negroes is to be worn down, if not eliminated, and there will be jobs for trained men.

It would seem that the first duty of WPA is to follow the President's instructions and leave to other government agencies, notably the Negro labor supply section of OPM, and the FEPC (both armed with the executive order of June 25), the task of breaking down resistance to Negro labor.

Get Training!

IF the American Negro is to extract from this international emergency the rewards that are justly his, he must be on the alert on every front. Heretofore one of the greatest obstacles to Negro economic progress has been the denial of opportunity to learn the skilled trades.

Privately operated vocational schools have excluded or sharply restricted Negro enrollment. Public vocational schools too often have limited their courses for Negroes to the less skilled trades. In New York City as recently as 1931 an attempt was made by the board of education to restrict courses in vocational schools in Harlem to the trades "where Negroes can get jobs." Had it not been for the protests of an alert citizens' committee, training in electricity would have been dropped merely because a survey of electrical contractors disclosed that they did not employ Negroes. With the rarest of exceptions, union labor did its bit to hold the Negro back by closing all apprenticeships to him in the skilled and highly-paid trades.

Added to these external factors has been a natural, but unfortunate development in Negro public opinion which frowned on vocational training and "went overboard" on white collar training. We were so determined that white folk should not force us *en masse* into manual labor brackets that we failed to develop a solid, skilled, well-paid working class.

Now, in this emergency, huge government funds are being spent to train skilled workers through public agencies such as NYA, WPA. Government funds are being allocated to city and county boards of education to assist them in vocational training. Great industrial plants have set up training schools for their workers, if not directly with government funds, at least out of money made available by fat government "plus" contracts.

So this is our chance to get training for thousands of our people. Of course we will have to fight to get them jobs, but it is easier to fight for a trained man than for an untrained one. Of course there will be a great depression after the war and millions will be unemployed, but here again the man with training will have a shade better chance in the struggle.

The clear lesson is: *Get training!*

Negro Military Police

THE echoes of the double killing at Fort Bragg, N. C., had not died before Negro soldiers passing through Gurdon, Ark., late in August, were set upon by armed white civilians and police and belabored so unmercifully that scores of the men left the outfit and started to hitch-hike to their homes ~~in~~ Detroit and Chicago.

The Army has announced that as a result of its investigation of the killing of a Negro private and a white military policeman at Fort Bragg, Negro military police will be trained and placed on duty. This will help the situation somewhat, since a great majority of the complaints of Negro soldiers concerns their treatment by white military police. But this step will not help situations like that at Gurdon, Ark. In some way the Army must impress upon southern communities that they cannot impose their local behavior patterns upon Negro soldiers.

Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson has written the NAACP, "the War Department can and will maintain the dignity of the uniform and the personnel which wears it. Inquiries will be conducted in a thorough and impartial manner; remedial action will be prompt and effective."

We shall see what we shall see.

Jim Crow Wings

THE film "I Wanted Wings" is a thrilling propaganda document calculated to make every young American yearn for service in this arm of the country's defense. We could not help but think—a little bitterly—that what was missing in the cross section of Young America shown in training at Randolph Field, Texas, was a brown American. The Army had an opportunity, unfettered by tradition, in opening up the air service to Negroes, to build a democratic air corps composed of *all* Americans. The times are ripe. The question to be resolved in the middle twentieth century is whether we shall have democracy or feudalism. The Army muffed its chance and established a "Negro" aviation training school off at Tuskegee Institute, Ala., where a handful of young Negro men will be trained in *separation* instead of *unity*. Meanwhile, the young white men at Randolph Field and a dozen other training centers will be learning and passing on to their children lily-white democracy. But by the time their children grow up there may not be democracy, even for white people. Perhaps no democracy next year. In the ringing words of Roscoe Dunjee at the N.A.A.C.P. conference in Houston, Tex.: "The Hitler idea cannot be defeated in lily-white airplanes!"

Haiti's New President

By L. D. Reddick

Last spring the black republic of Haiti, second in the Western Hemisphere to win its independence, elected as president one of its most distinguished sons, a former minister to the United States, Elie Lescot. In this article, the curator of the Schomburg collection who attended the brilliant inauguration, describes the first interview with the new executive after he assumed office

WE had been wondering. Maybe this reception would turn out like the other one had. In another land, we met the First Lady. The sequence ran like this: she was announced, she entered, shook hands, said her piece, then vanished. Some of us had things that we wanted to say. Pleasantly and delightfully, she took up all of the time. Graciously and politely, she bowed, waved "goodbye," then, like a flash, she was gone.

But in Haiti things were different. There was no rush, no hurry, though the time was busy. The Inauguration had just taken place. There was much to be done: a new administration had to be established. The treasury was virtually empty. Office-seekers camped on the doorstep. Delegations from all parts of the country were pouring into Port-au-Prince. They brought congratulations to the new President. They also brought tales of need and suffering.

In a wise and dramatic decision, the new Chief of State left the South for a quick swing around the Northern circle. He met the people. He saw conditions for himself. This gesture assured sections outside of the capital city that they would not be forgotten. On the face of the record, they had a right to be apprehensive. It was common knowledge that 78 cents out of every dollar expended by the government for public improvements had been spent on Port-au-Prince.

At the National Palace

We drove up to the palace grounds at 5 p. m. June first was one of those not-so-sultry Sunday afternoons which took advantage of the breeze. The palace guard presented arms, looked us over, then swung the gates open. We drove on up to the executive mansion where we were met by other uniformed officers, checked in by the receptionist and ushered into salon B. This was rather large with a high ceiling and huge consoles against the walls. On a rug in the center of the room were placed a half dozen chairs and a table—all French period furniture.

A few moments later we were directed into a second and even larger room in the right wing of the palace. The scheme was green and gold. Here, again, were the French period chairs and table as before. There was a grand piano in one corner. The windows ran down from the ceiling to the floor.

About 5:30 two of the President's sons, Lieutenant Lescot of the palace guard (now of the Garde d'Haiti) and Henri Lescot, just back from the United States, came by and escorted us to the private reception room in the left wing of the building. Here for forty-five minutes we were to discuss the prospect of closer cultural relations between the people of Haiti and the Negro people of the United States.

Lescot Up to Now

Already we knew something of His Excellency: Elie Lescot had been born about fifty-seven years ago in St. Louis of the North. His father, Ovide, was Captain of the Port in Cap Haitien and, under normal circumstances, the infant would have been born in the Cap. However, the expectant mother paid a visit to relatives in St. Louis. This is how it happened that the child was born there.

After finishing school in Cap Haitien, young Lescot taught for a while in Port-au-Paix. In a not-too-rapid succession he became Custom Collector and Deputy; Attorney-General in Port-au-Paix; consul at Antilla, Cuba; for five years a coffee trader in France; criminal judge in Port-au-Paix; minister of Education at Port-au-Prince, judge and representative of the government to the Supreme Court; minister of Justice of the Interior, Port-au-Prince; minister to the Dominican Republic; representative to the Buenos Aires Pan-American Conference of 1936 and finally, minister to the United States.

He was elevated to the Senate at the beginning of his campaign for the Presidency. On April 15, 1941, he was elected. Exactly one month later his inauguration took place with really impressive ceremonies.*

Simple Dignity

After shaking hands all around, everybody sat down. There were the President, Madame Lescot, M. Gotram Rouzier, the Under-Secretary of State, Department of Interior, Dr. Louis Mars, the brilliant psychiatrist who had just

PHOTO L. DOBST

La Place Petion, Port-au-Prince

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* See "Haiti Inaugurates a New President," *Opportunity, Journal of Negro Life*, August, 1941, p. 240 ff.

L'Ecole D'Agriculture, Port-au-Prince

returned from study in New York, Mrs. Reddick and myself.

The room was furnished with marked simplicity. The half-dozen mahogany chairs had cane bottoms. On the small center table was a basket of roses. Couched on the rug was a dreamy-eyed, artificial dog. In one corner was an imported radio-phonograph. Near the window was a statue carved from native mahogany.

The President was dressed in a grey seersucker suit with a small grey tie and a brown striped shirt. He was brown-skinned. His crinkly, white hair was brushed away from the slightly bald center and full forehead. His complexion was healthy. Save for a small unextravagant mustache, his face was clean shaven. The well built 5 feet 11 inch frame carried the 200 pounds easily. He gesticulated when he spoke French but not when he spoke English.

Mrs. Lescot was also perfectly natural, without the slightest trace of the pretence and show usually found in persons of such station. She, too, was definitely brown-skinned and simply dressed in a plain, though attractive, printed, green silk dress with white pique cuffs and collars. Her shoes were blue gabardine. The Under-Secretary of the Interior was a rather heavy, reddish-tan fellow who seemed to be pleasant and quietly intelligent about everything. He and Dr. Mars were dressed in summer suits.

Invites Negro Americans

The conversation got off to a good start with a pleasant debate as to whether we would talk in English or in French. I apologized for my poor French. The President said that he spoke English like I spoke French. We laughed and compromised: half the time we spoke English, half French.

We came to the point quickly enough. When asked as to his attitude about closer relations between the people of Haiti and the Negro people of the United States, the President asserted that he was definitely interested in this. He, then, made the epoch-making declaration that since has been headlined in many newspapers of this country: "I want you to tell the colored Americans that they have two countries: one in which they were born, the other the Republic of Haiti. Here they will receive every right, liberty and complete equality. There is no discrimination or segregation."

He pointed out that with him this was no false phrase; that his record bore out his words. While he was the Haitian minister in Washington, D. C., aside from the official associates of the various diplomatic corps, the majority of his friends had been Negroes. His children attended Howard as well as Cornell.

The full significance of this approach is appreciated when we remember that some of the Haitian representatives to this country have pursued an opposite course. So many myths have been circulated in Haiti by Negrophobe travelers, anti-Negro books, movies and the like that some Haitians while in the United States definitely avoid contact with Negroes. Thus, one minister cautioned his subordinates not to have too many Negroes coming into the legation. "We must remain neutral," he said. Dantes Bellegarde and Elie Lescot were happy exceptions to this rule.

Books and Newspapers

We next went into the question as to how these closer relations could be brought about. We worked out the broad outline of a plan for the exchange of books, newspapers, professors, students and tourists. As an example to other institutions, the New York Public Library, within the year, will send down to Haiti a thousand books from its duplicate section while one copy of every book published in Haiti will be sent to the Library's Schomburg Collection.

The newspapers of both countries shall be encouraged to exchange their regular issue and to feature news and personalities of mutual interest. The colleges should exchange professors and arrange for visiting lecturers and student tours.

In speaking of the great usefulness of the Negro newspaper as an agency of good-will propaganda, I pulled out a copy of the May 24 issue of *The Chicago Defender* which carried the front-page story I had written on the President's inauguration. He sent for his spectacles and read every word of it. In fact, he read it so thoroughly that I had the impression that he was also reading the story in the adjoining column about Joe Louis. In truth, he may have been, for the heavyweight champion is extremely popular in the Caribbean countries.

One of the President's own ideas for building Haitian-American friendship is to have a group of outstanding figures in various fields like Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Richard Wright, Marian Anderson and Joe Louis tour the "Black Republic."

Songs and Languages

The President revealed that he and President Roosevelt once discussed the idea of a good-will tour by such singers as Marian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor and Paul Robeson.

Apropros this point, His Excellency got up to play the phonograph record of "Heaven, Heaven" by Marian Anderson. He found the piece but alas, it seems that the children of the Presidential mansion are like other children: they had broken the record!

From time to time Mrs. Lescot would comment. She told us that she had lived in the United States for about three years and liked it very much; had visited New York several times; was the mother of seven children (five boys and two girls); recently had become a grandmother; did not herself speak English well, but that her children did. Apparently, the youngsters outside were enjoying themselves tremendously. Once it was necessary for Madame to excuse herself and suggest that they play a little more quietly.

We next discussed the barriers which

(*Continued on page 324*)

They Forced the Chief Out

By Dowdal H. Davis

An aroused Negro community, led by the NAACP and a fearless newspaper, made news in the Middle West in August when its protests forced a chief of Police to resign. Here is the inspiring story from Kansas City, Mo.

ON August 30, Chief Lear B. Reed of the Kansas City police resigned. Thereby hangs a tale.

Kansas City, Missouri, named by its Chamber of Commerce and substantiated by geography as "The Heart of America" is a bustling city of 400,000 persons located at the western edge of that borderline state which says, "Negroes shall not enter our lily-white institutions of learning, the United States supreme court notwithstanding."

Within its city limits reside some 40,000 colored citizens, thus making it a more or less typical half-northern, half-southern American metropolis as to its proportion of Negroes.

This one to ten ratio of Negroes automatically creates that American counterpart of the old-world ghetto known as the "Black Belt" in which is found the bulk of Negro activity. Kansas City's black belt is essentially the same as every other black belt. It has its professional people, its businessmen, its Pullman porters, cooks, janitors, jitterbugs, two-bit racketeers and small-time criminals.

Negro crime in Kansas City confines itself chiefly to intra-racial offenses with occasional robberies, auto thefts and purse snatches involving Nordic victims, just by way of insuring an occasional mention of the word "Negro" on the front pages of the white press. Few Negro racketeers were allowed on the inside of the famous Pendergast machine which ruled Kansas City for more than a decade and included in its organization names that have become nationally famous in exemplifying political corruption. In short Negro crime as against that of the efficient, highly-organized Northside gangsters who were first-name consorts of the Dillingers and the Floyds, was amateurish by comparison.

In 1939, Uncle Sam got a little fed up with the short changing he was getting on his income tax returns and decided to do a bit of investigating. The result was the cleanup of the whole Pendergast dynasty upon which nationwide attention was focused. It had ranked right up at top in the ranks of machine politics along with Memphis' Crump machine and the Kelly-Nash monopoly in Chicago.

When the machine-sponsored police chief got caught short with the rest of the overlords and was sent up the river for a brief rest, an aroused citizenry determined to take no more chances with highest-bidder police protection. State Control was installed and a local police board was appointed by Lloyd C. Stark, then governor of Missouri.

New Chief a Georgian

In seeking to build a police department which would be worthy of the name, it was decided to intrust the job to Georgia-born Lear B. Reed, an investigator for the F. B. I., who had a well-established reputation for energy, ability, initiative and knowledge of the latest scientific police methods.

Kansas City's colored citizens, remembering the election year of 1934 when Negro precinct workers were shot down in cold blood as a result of a bought-and-paid-for police system, rejoiced that at long last law enforcement would be handled impartially and efficiently. They had the highest confidence that a former United States government agent could do no less.

Ex-G-Man Reed took hold with all of his reputed energy and vaunted scientific methods. Within weeks, the police force experienced a better than fifty percent change in personnel. But, when the re-shuffle and deal had been finished, Negroes found themselves with but ten colored officers on a force of more than 650 men. This, in spite of the fact that the lowest previous minimum, even under machine rule, had been thirty. But, said Chief Reed, "This condition will exist only until our budget difficulties have been arranged and sufficient Negro applicants can be found who meet with the stringent requirements of the new police force."

The cleanup went on. Open gambling disappeared, the "fix" became an impossibility, the prostitute no longer whistled from the street corner, night spots shut up shop at 1:30 A.M. sharp, and stiff fines rapidly discouraged 50-mile-an-hour speed on the boulevards. The new broom was sweeping its traditionally clean swath. For six months, Kansas City's college-degree police force ferreted out the racketeers, narcotic agents, strong arm men, grafters and leeches—with 640 white officers and 10 Negro patrolmen. The public was delighted. Chief Reed added the keys to the city to his gaoler's ring. Brave stalwart coppers, with uniforms changed from traditional blue to smart military olive drab, were modern Davids. The police board found that leaving the entire matter of police control in the efficient hands of Chief Reed was not only popular but convenient, and not overly strenuous.

Turns on Negroes

Reed, "energetic, tireless, efficient and Georgia-born," was determined that crime should be proved for all time an unprofitable pastime. So, with Italian ganglords broken, vice and political corruption disposed of, he decided to devote his talents to the problem of keeping the Negro element in line.

Four successive Saturday nights found his all-white raiding squads disarming over 1,000 Negro "criminals"—of penknives. The releases on the front pages of the dailies made impressive reading. Confessions were never very difficult to obtain from Negro petty criminals—with no pictures of the questioning allowed. White officers in squad cars decided that midnight was as long as the habitues of Twelfth Street could be trusted out-of-doors.

A Hallowe'en celebration during which a pop bottle happened to drop on a squad car was sufficient to bring thirty-two officers roaring into the crowd of merry-makers with tommy guns to quell the "riot." At that very moment, not fifteen blocks away, a gang of white "celebrants" were engaged in doing over $5,000 worth of property damage—and not a policeman to be found. Minor traffic violations were accompanied by drawn revolvers, abuse and beatings. Negro women, delegates to a national sorority convention, were embarrassed and insulted because officers mistook them for Nordics with Negro escorts.

Personal supervision by Chief Reed was the usual order, sometimes in impeccable olive drab and sometimes in dirty overalls as he relentlessly stalked potential public enemies No. 1 through dark alleys. Raiding, a preferred avocation, gave Chief Reed an excellent opportunity to use a devastating right cross and left jab which he had learned in his

Photo courtesy The Call

Governor Forrest C. Donnell of Missouri (extreme right) listens attentively on August 22 as Carl R. Johnson (left), president of the Kansas City, Mo., branch of the N.A.A.C.P., details the formal charges of Kansas City citizens against the state-controlled city police. Other members of the committee seated about the room, left to right are: the Reverend L. R. Grant, Centennial Methodist church; J. H. Bluford, member of the NAACP executive committee; Earl D. Thomas, principal, R. T. Coles Junior and Vocational high school; Mrs. Fredericka D. Perry; Mrs. Lettie Jordan, Democratic committee-woman of the 4th ward; C. A. Franklin, editor, The Call; *the Rev. R. J. Jordan, St. Stephen's Baptist church; Dr. J. H. Lewis; Forest Smith, YMCA Secretary; the Rev. D. A. Holmes, Paseo Baptist church; and (standing) Thomas A. Webster, executive secretary, Kansas City Urban League*

G-man training. Of course, the fact that these two high developments of the art of self defense were backed up by a Magnum .38 is coincidental.

"Communist" Hokum

Specialists in the administrative offices, imported from Florida, Texas and Alabama by Chief Reed gave freely of their knowledge, experience and ideas to various public gatherings. Superintendent of Records Thomas Kearney, divulged to a listening audience of whites the startling "news" that in Jackson County there were better than 10,000 Communists of which sixty per cent were Negroes, despite the fact that this number would have included almost half of the colored adult population in the city. Finally aroused, colored leaders protested and demanded a hearing with either proof of the assertion furnished or a retraction made. After much procrastination, the police board held a private hearing with Kearney—behind closed doors and without the knowledge of any of the complaining committee—with no tangible results.

Delegations of interested and concerned colored citizens visited the chief's office with a sincere desire to effect some solution to the growing tenseness which prevailed throughout the city. Negro people, grown suspicious from unreasonable rulings, resentful from recurrent outrages, belligerent with every fresh altercation, were muttering on street corners. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with an electric animosity toward Kansas City police authority. It was suggested that a greater number of Negro officers would enable law enforcement to be handled in Negro areas by colored officers, thus helping to bring about a more cooperative and sympathetic attitude among residents of the Black Belt. Chief Reed responded, "More Negro officers will certainly be added when our budget has been expanded and the proper applicants can be found." It was suggested by one of the committee that perhaps the reason for the scarcity of good material might be caused by the policy which prevented Negro officers from rising to more than the rank of Class A patrolman. It was brought out that not many Negro college-trained men were anxious to harness themselves to a $120-a-month existence for the rest of their lives.

Chief Reed agreed that there might be some truth in this observation. Two hours after the departure of the committee, he facetiously announced the elevation of a Negro to a sergeantcy. Four months later, another Negro sergeant was named. *Two* sergeants to supervise eight Negro patrolmen, as compared to the average white sergeant's command of twenty men each—and as this is being written, both Negro sergeants still are receiving Class A patrolman's pay, gold badges to the contrary.

Brutality, Terror, Murder

In the meanwhile, two luckless Negroes got a little intoxicated and went so far as to forget themselves and swear at a white filling station attendant. As a result, one of them got himself murdered for his thoughtlessness. The police (white) went through the routine of picking up the slayer. After perfunctory questioning, he was released, *without charges being filed*. He was never even held in jail. It was only after the appearance of an account of the crime in the Kansas City *Call* that the grand jury heard the case at all. Even then, no indictment was returned.

More police beatings followed. A Negro, charged with murder, was taken from the city jail to the sheriff's office, badly beaten and bruised following the obtaining of his "confession." While in the county jail he committed suicide rather than submit to further questioning and confessions "given of his own free will and without duress."

Negroes brought in for questioning were insulted, humiliated and goaded with the hope that they would make some overt display which could be regarded as resistance. Negroes involved in minor traffic accidents were arrested and held incommunicado for as long as twenty-four hours. During numerous raids, deliberate insults were heaped upon victims intended to make them show resentment which could be used as an excuse for manhandling.

Then, one night, a Negro gambling house, long a favorite with the raiding squad, was raided by two white policemen, seeking a little diversion before time for them to go off duty. In the best gumshoe manner, they sneaked into the place to be raided. Inside, they began a tirade of abuse and epithets. They then started to club several of the patrons. One man, unable to bear the treatment any longer, sought to defend himself with a pool ball. He was shot down—from behind, with the remark, "Do any of you other N——— want the same?"

Governor Hears Protests

Comparative quiet, punctuated by rumblings of discontent from various groups existed for a few days after this latest performance. Then, on the following Friday *The Call*, which had been waging a relentless campaign for months against the police treatment of colored citizens, appeared with the unvarnished details of the brutal murder. Becoming cognizant of the facts, Negro public opinion began to crystallize into a concerted pattern of outraged indignation.

Meetings were held at the same time that the police board and the white dailies whitewashed the entire affair as of small consequence. After all—one Negro more or less. Even the white daily paper which had, on occasion, scored some of the Reed policies did not recognize in this most recent injustice, sufficient cause to become disturbed. They accorded it a bare mention on an inside page.

After three weeks of waiting for official repudiation of the act—which never came—by the police board and police chief, a committee of Negro leaders decided to take matters into their own hands. So, on Friday, August 23, twenty-three representatives of colored Kansas City visited Governor Forrest C. Donnell, Missouri's new Republican governor, characterized by Life Magazine as the "slim, quiet, St. Louis lawyer who defeated Lawrence C. McDaniel, a fat, loud St. Louis lawyer."

Governor Donnell, aware that here was no tempest in a teapot, himself carried chairs into his private office to seat the committee. Taking his own notes, Donnell listened for an hour and twenty minutes to a recitation of travesties on decency and rational law enforcement that was as amazing as it was enlightening.

Governor Demands Explanation

The committee finished its work and returned to Kansas City. A small two-inch story in the white press gave notice of the meeting. This changed to front page headlines four days later when Governor Donnell wrote to Kansas City's police board demanding a detailed report on the entire list of grievances as submitted by the Negro committee. The police board, with its chairman on vacation, met to decide what was to be done. Newsboys on downtown corners shouted the latest developments. The subject was on everyone's tongue. Past complaints against the police chief were caught up by the white papers and given publicity on the front page and in editorials. In the midst of the sound and the fury, Chief Reed arrived home from a convention of police chiefs to take the soapbox and declare in stentorian tones, "If I can't maintain order in the Black Belt (my way), I'll not be chief of police." He went on from there into additional statements entirely out of harmony with the governor's order. The chairman of the police board arrived home from vacation just in time to go into a session with the board, from which even the board's own secretary was barred. This dramatic five-hour conference ended at 1:30 A.M.

Newspapers the following morning carried the headline: "CHIEF REED QUITS POST!"

In a characteristic statement, Reed contended that he had been planning to tender his resignation for some time prior to the governor's conference. This, notwithstanding his statement of twenty-four hours before in which he shouted his intentions to rule in his own way, followed by instructions to his officers to continue their work in spite of criticism.

A white newspaper stated that "Reed was forced out by aroused public opinion to clear the way for a better understanding between the police department and Kansas City's business and civic interests." But, it remained for an indignant Negro populace, tired of being kicked and beaten, to create the issue which rid Kansas City of the type of police chief which, through his high-handed arrogance and unreasoning bias, had become intolerable.

Board Whitewashes Police

With the resignation of Reed came the appointment of another police chief by the four-man board. But the governor's request for a full report on the situation as related by the Negro delegation was still to be completed.

Negro citizens, hopeful that the resignation of the chief was indicative of an appreciation on the part of the police board of the gravity of the matter, felt that here, at long last, were public officials who were sincerely concerned with the best interests of the people of Kansas City without regard to race—for two days.

Two days after the appointment of a new chief, the police board completed an elaborate and eloquent 46-page report to the governor. But in that 46 pages they attempted to repudiate or justify every charge that the Negro committee and the Kansas City branch of the N.A.A.C.P. had made. They claimed that the "Negroes' charges of brutality are exaggerated and over-emphasized." It was declared that "altogether too many persons in the Negro community have themselves been unfriendly and unruly to the police and have taxed the patience and ingenuity of the police officers in enforcing the law among them."

The police board tried to justify its position by relating a detailed account of nineteen separate cases of possible controversial nature, in which they attempted to reconcile the part which the police had played in each of them. This was done in spite of the fact that the Negro committee had been concerned with only eight of the nineteen cases in making its complaint. Then, in reaching an all-time high in self-righteousness, they accused Negroes of being "brutal to officers." They did not explain how an unarmed individual might go about being "brutal" to a six-foot officer of the law, armed with revolver, blackjack, nightstick and handcuffs. Their explanation of the fact that more Negroes were at present employed in the police department than at the time they took office was equally grotesque. They reported that the Negro committee would not submit an itemized list of the "alleged" brutalities. They did not report that numerous previous attempts on the part of Negro citizens to submit such a list both at formal hearings and informally had met consistent evasion and rebuff. They did not report that absolutely no action had been taken with regard to these complaints until so ordered by the governor.

NAACP Asks Board Ouster

A presentation of the facts as compiled in N.A.A.C.P. records was sent to the governor in answer to the board's lengthy explanation with the request that the present police board be replaced by "officials who can and will command the respect of all of its citizens."

The controversy, affecting the welfare and comfort of the 40,000 Negroes in Kansas City, Missouri, now rests in the hands of the governor. Governor Donnell has the opportunity to prove, not only to Missourians, but to the entire nation, that government "by the people, for the people" is not merely a myth to which lip service has been given only because Lincoln thought enough of the phrase to include it in his Gettysburg address. Thirteen million Americans will be deeply interested in his decision.

Editor's Note: How are Negro citizens treated by police in *your* community? If all is not well, what is being done about it?

The South Stirs

I. Brothers in the Union

By Harold Preece

The South is stirring. A strange new spirit is abroad in Dixie. Black and white workers are breaking down the barriers that have so long separated them and casting aside traditional suspicions, fears and hatreds that have helped to keep them poor and ignorant. In this, the first of three articles, Mr. Preece tells what is happening

"I wish to know if you know who called the first strike? It was God when he told Moses to go down and bring his children out from under Egyptian bondage. Those people were slaving for the Egyptians and God called a strike for them, and sent a man after them."

Vester Burkett, former organizer of the Alabama Farmers Union.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, a tall gangling man, born of the Southern poor whites, dreamed of brotherhood between the black man and the white man when he signed the Emancipation Proclamation 78 years ago. Today that dream is being realized in the very cradle of prejudice as black man and white man join together in powerful trade unions to build a New South which will no longer stone its prophets or starve three-fourths of its people.

This is not the fatuous optimism of an idealist mistaking wish for reality. I recently returned to my native South after an absence of three years because I wanted to find out how my people were thinking and doing. In the mills and the cottonfields, I saw the New South being born.

I sat in at a meeting of a common laborers' union in Texas where the majority of the members were white but the president was colored. "We made him president because he ain't afraid of any foreman or of the mayor himself," a freckle-faced white hod carrier told me. In that same Texas town, I saw a distinguished Negro educator dined publicly by a white Methodist group while Martin Dies, a native Texan and Caucasian, was laughed out of the city when he came to investigate local college students for holding inter-racial meetings with Negro boys and girls.

Down in Louisiana, where the political machine built by the late Huey Long is falling to pieces like an old Ford, I saw white farmers and Negro farmers sitting at the same big outdoor tables, eating fried chicken, and discussing ways by which they might get better incomes from their little pieces of ground. .

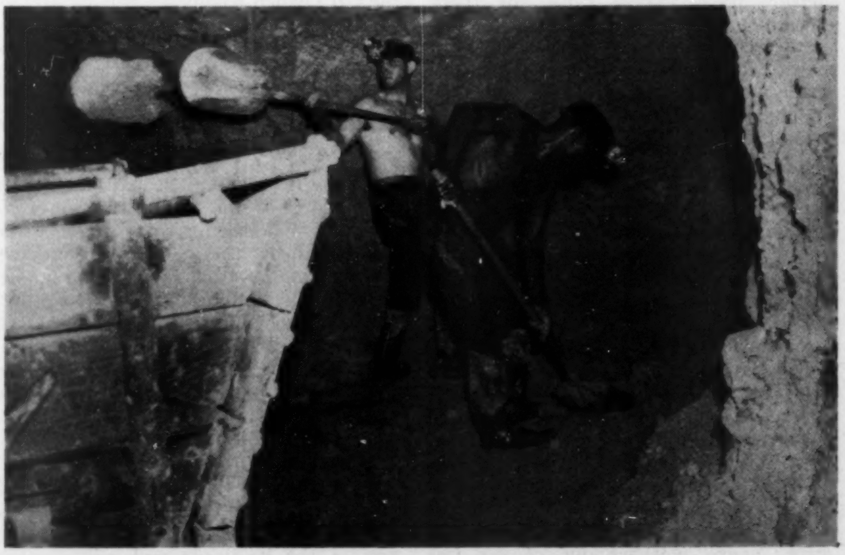
Modern Prophets

In New Madrid County, southern Missouri, I heard two of the South's modern phophets—Claude Williams, a white man, and Owen Whitfield, a Negro—discuss plans for a strike of cottonpickers this fall if the planters do not pay ten per cent of the market price for the picking. If the planters get ten cents a pound for their cotton, the pickers want a dollar for every hundred pounds they pull from the ripe bolls. If the market price is fifteen cents, they want $1.50.

Three years ago, the sharecroppers in New Madrid County were so many waifs driven from the land because of the curtailment in cotton production, threatened by local officials and mobs which resented the close fraternity that had developed between white and black in their ranks. Today their union, the CIO United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers, has secured such a preponderant influence in the county that it has swept out of office the supine friends of the planters and installed in their places officials who have some respect for the constitutional rights guaranteed the humblest American.

Race is an abstraction when hunger is a reality. The South could make no progress so long as it had no working-class, in the modern sense of the word, to lead the struggle for democracy which transcends all issues of color and creed. Rural people, living in isolated communities, can wage only sporadic fights for their emancipation. Without organized support and experienced leadership, they will be defeated as were the courageous sharecroppers of Elaine, Arkansas, in 1919.

As long as the South's common folk stuck to their hills and creek bottoms, self-contained and aloof from the rest of the world, the few people who owned the South could rest easy. When a substantial percentage of the common folk left their home communities to work in the factories and mines as wage-earners, the picture changed. The farmer who had known everybody in his own community became just one more cipher on a payroll. The man taught to regard all Negroes as "inferior" found himself reduced to the economic level of the black man as the lean years of the depression devoured America. Inevitably, white man and black man "got together" in a unity that cannot be



Side by side in an Arkansas bauxite mine, digging the raw material from which aluminum is made broken either by overbearing policemen or the masked riders of the Klan.

Union Ends Low Pay

That unity, expressed through the United Mine Workers of America, CIO, was the force which wiped out the forty cents a day wage differential between miners in the Northern and Southern Appalachian coal regions. The ending of that differential was one of the major victories in that struggle of the Southern people for freedom which continues in an unbroken chain from Nat Turner of Virginia to an old Georgia grist mill keeper who organizes his neighbors into the Farmers Union when he isn't grinding their corn. Now throughout the South, white and Negro workers are planning to wipe out the differentials set up by selfish employers in other industries.

I think that the new spirit of unity in the South was never illustrated better than the support given Negro laborers in the Atlanta City Sanitary Department by their white fellow workers when the Negroes went on strike for a wage increase of 50 cents per day recently. The Southern News-Almanac, the poor man's paper of the South, tells what happened in its issue of July 31, 1941:

"The white truck drivers refused to move the city trucks when the Mayor tried to use city prison labor as strikebreakers. The WPA refused to supply strikebreakers also. The Mayor tried to arm the trucks one day, but the strikebreakers on only two trucks went out. And these two had to give up the attempt when they were routed from yards by irate strikers."

The strike ended with the Negroes getting their 50-cent raise, the truck drivers a 75-cent raise, and mechanics in the department a raise of ten cents per hour. Governor Eugene Talmadge made no comment about what happened in his state capital, but his remarks would have probably been unprintable.

Negroes Wary of AFL

Significantly, the Negro workers refused to place their grievances in the hands of local American Federation of Labor leaders connected with the Talmadge machines. Only those AFL groups which have adopted progressive policies to fit the new day, which admit workers of all races on an equal basis, have any chances of survival in the awakening South. The long impoverishment of the Southern people was due not only to reactionary employers. A part of the blame must be placed on the ruling caste of the Federation which kept Negro workers out of the few unions existing in the South. The result was that groups of employers could pay wage-earners of both races pittances that would not maintain a growing child in the North.

"But you know, Brother, that things like that began to stop when the CIO came South," a Negro member of the Oil Workers International Union at Pasadena, Texas, just outside of Houston, told me last winter. "Before the CIO came down here, I wiped machines for anything they wanted to pay me. I never knew from one week to the other but that I would have to tell my wife on Saturday night that I had been laid off.

"Since I joined the CIO, my wages have gone up so fast that I've been able to buy a home and know that I will keep my job so I can meet the payments. The company knows that every single white man will lay down his tools if a Negro worker is mistreated. White men who once wouldn't speak to me now walk home from work with me after the whistle blows. I circulated a petition to have the poll tax abolished in my department the other day. The white men crowded around me to put their names on it."

For millions of my people—white and black—the CIO has become the lamp of democracy in this section which most of America has known through its Cotton Ed Smiths at one end of the scale and its Jeeter Lesters at the other. It is the CIO, under the moral leadership of John L. Lewis, which has organized black men and white men in the same meeting halls where Jim Crow has no place. It is the CIO which is organizing independent political action—to overturn such super-conspiracies against the spirit of American democracy as the Crump machine in Memphis. And it is the CIO which has filed a petition in the United States Supreme Court to declare the hated poll tax unconstitutional so that the South's citizens may vote.

Millions in Wages Won

The South has not known such a force since the historic Union Leagues in the great days of the Reconstruction era. Millions of dollars in extra wages have been won by the CIO for Southern workers and no man may fear that he will be denied a CIO card because of his color. Local unions of the big CIO international organizations fight for better schools, fight for decent housing for all citizens—white and black; fight to obtain relief for the hungry. Whenever the CIO hits a Southern town, that town begins to change.

Trying to stem the tide which will finally engulf and wash away the South's traditional feudalism, politicoes in the pay of the landlords and mill owners have tried a belated appeal to sectional prejudice by trying to set up a separate "Southern Federation of Labor." "That," says Owen Whitfield, "is like trying to push back the Mississippi with a mop."

"The people still outside the CIO are our brothers; we are going out to get them," Whitfield wrote me recently. And today in the awakening South, CIO furniture workers help organize farmers. Textile workers drop in on friends who work in the cottonseed oil industry and see what they can do about getting them organized. With the financial and moral support of the National Maritime Union and other CIO organizations in New Orleans, Louisiana sharecroppers and small landowners are being organized into the Farmers Union under the leadership of Clinton Clark, a fearless Negro farmhand who might have stepped out of the pages of the slave rebellions. CIO miners and other trade unionists are backing the organization of the Alabama Farmers Union headed by Preacher Gerald Harris, a big man with a big heart.

Establishing Co-ops

The Farmers Union is establishing cooperative buying clubs and cooperative stores in Louisiana to put out of business the plantation commissaries which the country people of both races called "robbesaries."

Owen Whitfield spoke for both the Negro and white people of the South when he spoke both as a minister and an international vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers at the UCAPAWA Cotton States Convention held at Harviel, Missouri, recently:

"When men and women lay aside race hatred and organize and make up their minds 'we're going to do something,' then something is done.

"I have quite a fight on this in my church. I am trying to prove that the Negro has been hating the white man just as much as the white man has hated him. But those things are fading away through the work of the UCAPAWA. As long as the white man cannot organize with the Negro and the Negro cannot organize with the white man, both are doomed. Because the bosses will play one against the other.—Every man and woman who has any manhood or womanhood is not going to starve."

And in these days when the human consciousness of the South ripens like the grain in the field, it is easy to understand why members of the Southern poll tax oligarchy like Carl Vinson of Georgia frantically introduce anti-strike bills and why Tom Connally of Texas maneuvers to knife the anti-lynching bill. Essentially, they hate all working people of any section and all organiza-

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The Co-op Comes to Harlem

By Charlotte Crump

A small group in Harlem is trying to do something about the high cost of living through its newly established Modern Cooperative store

IF you walk up 150th street in upper Harlem, between Convent and Amsterdam Avenues, you will see a small green and white sign. "MODERN CO-OP", it says. The facade of the small store to which it is attached is whitewashed and inside, the gleaming array of jars and bottles along the right wall is matched by the eager smile of Walter S. Ramsey, business manager, chief clerk and most ardent worker for the first Negro cooperative grocery store, operated according to the Rochdale principles in the northeastern area.

When you've glanced along the rows of canned goods; looked into the ice chest filled with butter, three grades; milk in bottles and cartons; eggs, three grades; bacon, cold meats, wheat germ, quart bottles of sodas; noted the bread, potatoes, cigarettes, soap, porcelain cleanser and not by any means least the pamphlets, all carrying the Co-op label, you've seen the result of the determination of a small group of young married couples to get more for their money.

The Modern Co-op grocery store grew out of one of those eternal discussions on the economic disadvantages of being a Negro. It has often been repeated that the race's salvation is in the consumer cooperative movement, but seldom is anything done about it. The number of otherwise well-informed persons who know little or nothing about the movement is astounding.

True cooperators date their genesis to 1833 when in Rochdale, England, a group of weavers formulated the plan which is reverently referred to as the "Rochdale principle" and is the bible of consumer cooperation.

The central aim of consumer cooperation is simple: to get better quality for less money by eliminating private profit. In the words of the Eastern Cooperative Wholesale, "A cooperative is a business owned and controlled by its customers to supply themselves with goods and services of dependable quality on a non-profit basis. Each consumer-member or shareholder has one vote.

"Earnings are shared among the consumer-members in proportion to their purchases. Cooperatives are the application of the principles of democracy to business."

$600,000,000 U. S. A. Business

Consumer cooperation is a boon to families in low or middle income groups, into which practically the entire Negro population falls. Although it has been stated that throughout the country (with a heavy concentration in the Middle West) cooperative retail stores do an annual business of $600,000,000, the movement contains no aspects of a racket.

It is difficult to understand why more Negroes, a put-upon group where business is concerned, have not seen this movement as a means for keeping profits at home.

It is true, however, that among whites as well, one of the main functions of cooperative groups is education. People have to be educated away from old habits of buying and into new habits of recognizing true value. They even have to be educated out of the habit of being rooked. In addition, few newspapers will carry advertising from co-ops, because other retail and wholesale merchants would raise . . . mighty protests. Most of them thoroughly hate the thought of consumer cooperation. This is understandable, because should the idea become more general, they would either have to join or be left holding their various bags.

Another major problem involved in starting a cooperative unit is getting the necessary capital.

The original members of the Modern Co-op, were, most of them, personal friends in the middle income group, who found that the increased cost of living was making great holes in their budgets. Their disgust with inferior quality and high prices led them to investigate every possibility for economizing, and when they looked up they found they had formed a cooperative buying club.

WALTER S. RAMSEY
Harlem Co-op Business Manager

This is the first stage for all cooperative enterprises. They went about it in a business-like way, getting facts and figures from the Eastern Cooperative Wholesale (hereinafter referred to as ECW) which is the distributing agency for goods carrying the Co-op label in the eastern section of the country. There is a national body too. It is the National Cooperatives, Inc., and all genuine cooperatives belong to it.

Started with 20 Members

When you form a buying club, you place an order with your wholesaler, ECW in this case, sell the merchandise at market price, but save on overhead by having storage space, labor and delivery facilities donated. You are assured of better quality goods and of a small return on your investment if the club shows a profit at the end of a set period. The Modern Co-op at this stage comprised a nucleus membership of 20. Each chipped in five dollars in order to make the first purchase from the wholesale house, and headquarters were established in the basement of the home of Mrs. Minna K. Ross, a charter member.

The first few weeks were hectic, with members rushing home from work to put up shelves, build bins, arrange, argue and hold weekly business meetings. All work was done in spare time, and the only publicity they had was word of mouth. But as savings became apparent, enthusiasm mounted to crusading pitch and no acquaintance of any member was permitted to have peace until he had promised to make a purchase from the buying club at least; to join the group at most.

This technique was so effective that in the spring of 1941, the basement storeroom began to be crowded, and customers, not all of whom were members, numerous enough for the club to gamble on opening a retail store.

In April, Co-op members crusaded more fervently than ever to raise capital for the store. The minimum invest-

(*Continued on page* 330)

Our Stars: In Track and Field

By William A. Brower

Where once there were but few outstanding Negro track and field stars, brown athletes are breaking records left and right, challenging and surpassing the best male and female stars in the country. The author tells of some who have made the sports headlines recently

OVERSHADOWED by the more eerie aspects of World War II is the enforced temporary eclipse of one of sports lovers greatest periodic spectacles. The quadrennial international athletic games, better known as the Olympics, have been shoved into discard for the duration of the current military conflict. Perhaps longer.

That's hard to take. The prime interest of the Olympics is track and field. The fact that outdoor track and field is short on the items of color and ballyhoo, which are common denominators in other sports, makes the situation sad indeed.

With the exception of the Penn and Drake Relays, The NCAA, IC4A and AAU Meets, glamor is generally absent from exterior attractions. That made the Olympics a welcome diversion every four years until Herr Hitler ruined things for us.

Back of all this lurks another distressing fact. Negro track and field stars weren't able to shine internationally, in 1940, as they have been nationally since 1936. Prospects that they will be aglow in 1944 are dim, too.

The 1940 contingent wouldn't have been as sensational as the dark tide that surged forth in 1936. There would have been no one like the incomparable Jesse Owens, author of that imperishable feat of winning four events in the Berlin Olympics and making Hitler sick in the process. There wouldn't have been any leaping sepia humans to compare with Corny Johnson and Dave Albritton, who were unfurling themselves stratospherically to the then unbelievable ceiling of 6 and ¾ feet. There would have been no ebony quarter-milers to match Archie Williams and Jimmy Luvalle. (Archie set a world mark of 46.1 for the 400 meters in Chicago, in 1936, which was recently smashed at the AAU meet in Philadelphia by Glover Klemmer, white, of the San Francisco's Olympic Club.)

We would have, of course, had Johnny Woodruff, with his awkward, territory-eating stride and much the wiser from the experience of four years of rugged campaigning. And we would have had Eddie Gordon, a perennial broad jump entrant who has participated in the last 19 AAU meets. And perhaps Ralph Metcalfe, second-placer winner in the 1932–36 Olympics, would have essayed a noble comeback. And unquestionably there would have been the uncovering of some new talent.

But why interpose something so irrevocable as even 1940 for speculation? Let us talk about the future.

A 1944 Team

Suppose, for the sake of convenience, the Olympics were underway this year. Or better still, suppose the miracle to end miracles would happen and somebody got rid of Hitler in time for rehabilitation and the 1944 Olympics. Let us see what kind of flesh-and-blood would we have to offer for these cosmic contests. Just what kind of new material could we count on for 1944? The answer is plenty. It might not be as gleaming as the 1936 group, but it would be an impressive, well-balanced array just the same.

Here is a sample of what we could conservatively anticipate: a decathlon champion, a male dash king, female dash titlists, a discus titleholder, crack hurdlers, good quarter and half milers, a 1500-meter threat, penathlon champion, 5000-meter dark horse prospect, and a host of second and third placers.

Out of our representation we could select a heroine and several heroes. We could expect to have world record-breakers. We could throw in for extra measure the team of lasses from Tuskegee and make an above-average showing in the female competition. Boy, we could gurgle with enthusiasm!

Our heroine would be the Mercury-tinted Jean Lane, of Wilberforce University. This young lady with the picturesque style is unbeaten in any kind of competition during the past two years. She has been assaulting world records with abandon. She has won five National AAU championships. She has bested the one-time unbeatable Stella Walsh, 1936 Olympic fair sex race, thrice. She has simply outstripped the cream of maiden sprinters.

For a hero we could select Barney Ewell, Penn State's sprint ace. Ewell is an IC4A triple titlist, NCAA double titleholder, and the AAU 100 meter crown wearer. Or we might choose Archie Harris, who recently graduated from the University of Indiana and who has tossed the discus for a distance of 174 feet 8 and ¾ inches. That's something that nobody else has done. Or we hight consider Johnny Borican, 1941 decathlon winner and ex-penathlon champion. And so on.

Our collection of stars for 1944 would be more versatile than those of 1936. Whereas, in 1936, we dominated the shorter dashes, taking care of everything in sight from the 100 to the half-mile, and broad and high jumps, we would probably have participants spread out through practically all events. We would have them in the distances, the middle distances and sprints. We would have them in the field events.

Distance Stars

Something new for us would be a strong 1500-meter contender. Diminutive Eddie Culp, of Xavier University of New Orleans, looks to be the answer to our prayers for a consistent first class miler.

Track experts have a pet theory that the distance events are beyond our mechanical capabilities. Results tend to substantiate that assumption. We have had some good longish sprinters in the past, to be sure. But somehow, with our regrets, they ease into oblivion. There has been Phil Edwards, the great NYU half miler. But he seldom had the wallop in the mile. There has been Jimmy Smith, the Hoosier boy. But he always tailed Don Lash or Tommy Deckard. There has been Gus Moore. There has been Curtis Giddings. And even Borican and Woodruff have flung at the mile. But not with constant success.

But with the Culp lad, it's different. He seems to have what it takes. Eddie was just a freshman at Xavier this past year. He has stepped the mile in 4:11.6. He won the junior AAU 1500-meters in an unprecedented time of 3:55.1.

In the senior event of the same length, he first paced and then pushed and pursued Leslie MacMitchell, the New York University boy who Stanley Frank, columnist for the New York *Post*, says is potentially the greatest miler in the history of track. Well, maybe, Culp will have something to say about that in a couple of years. Or even sooner.

If you are fond of futures, another distance possibility is eighteen year-old Frank Dixon, III, of New York

City. Dixon, who is a June graduate of Monroe High School, is the national interscholastic cross-country champion. He also holds the national titles in the scholastic mile and two mile. But far more significant, he won the 5000-meter run in 16:6.1 in the junior AAU championships at Franklin Field in Philadelphia, June 28, in his first try. He also placed fourth in the senior event which Notre Dame's great Greg Rice notched in 14:45.6. Definitely a good future bet.

Hurdlers and Sprinters

Although Fred Wolcott, of Rice Institute, is the acknowledged superior timber-topper in the country, we have a couple of lads to recommend that would make him look jealously to his laurels.

Joe Batiste is one of them. Just out of Phoenix, Arizona, High School in 1939, Batiste defeated Wolcott in the AAU meet, in Lincoln, Neb., to win the 110-meter hurdles. This year he made Fred hurry in both the low and high hurdles.

Ed Dugger, 1941 Tufts College track leader, is the other. Dugger, who set a new IC4A record for the 120 high hurdles at 14.1, on May 31, has also upset Wolcott.

Of course, Barney Ewell would be our top sprint shot. And we will have more to say about this dazzling Ewell later. But Barney wouldn't be without a potent supporting cast.

There would be Herb Douglas, another Xavier freshman. Douglas placed in several events, both junior and senior, during the last AAU meet. He has clocked the 100-yard dash in 9.7. He has phenomenal possibilities.

Then there would be Mozelle Ellerbe, Tuskegee Institute sprinter and winner of the NCAA 100-yard dash bauble in 1939, the National AAU sprint diadem for indoors in 1940, and the Penn Relays' 100-yard race, also in 1940.

Another able candidate would be Leo Tarrant, of Alabama State Teachers College, Tarrant, who will be a senior this fall, is one of the few men who negotiated the 100-yards in 9.5 during the lately expired season.

And, finally, there would be Eddie Greenridge, the New York Pioneer Club boy and junior AAU 200-meter titleholder. And Harold Sinclair, 21 year-old Los Angeles law student at UCLA who is formerly a Pacific Coast Conference champion. And Richard Nelson, possessing transparent potentialities from Wiley College.

We would be wistfully boasting if it were said that we had the class of the quarter-milers. Frankly, we don't. The aforementioned Klemmer, Herb Kerns and Bourland, all Nordics, are a little too fleet for our current best, ex-NYU's Jimmy Herbert. Herbert, whose peak seems to have been touched a couple of indoors seasons or so back, would still make a respectable bid, but it's unlikely that he would make it stick. The ex-Violet athlete established an indoor standard for the 440 at 48.4 on Darthmouth's accelerated boards in Hanover, N. H., March 14, 1940.

Tuskegee's quarter-mile championship relay team

But again if you have an eye for the future, don't despair. Ernest Marshall, from Fort Valley (Ga.) College, is our nomination. Marshall won the 400 meters in the junior AAU with a 48 seconds flat timing. He is also the Southern Conference quarter mile titlist. And that provokes an interesting story about Marshall.

Marshall's entry into the Southern Conference meet at Alabama State was his first try in college competition. He stroked the distance in 49 flat.

At Fort Valley there is no course laid out for the quarter-mile. Marshall did his training in a cow pasture. An obsolete basketball suit served as a track uniform. He persuaded friends to start 50 yards ahead of him and then he chased them to an imaginary tape. You had better be on the lookout for Messrs. Marshall, Klemmer, Kerns, Bourland, etc.

Woodruff and Borican, the two Johnnies, would be our most optimistic middle distance hopes. They would probably be buttressed by Herbert. Woodruff, now a lieutenant in the army, can still go in the 800 meters, or 880 yards. Borican, who wound up second in the 1941 AAU 800 meters, has been especially dangerous indoors. He holds three indoor records: the 1,000 yards, 2:8.8; the three-quarter mile, 3:01.2, and the 600 yards, 1:10.2.

Borican in Decathlon

Borican, naturally, would be our big decathlon craftsman. He won that gruelling event at Bridgeton, N. J., in a two-day exacting competition, July 3 and 4. He is the third Negro to achieve this distinction of all-around track and field prowess. Charlie West, the old Washington and Jefferson athlete, did it back in 1924. Bill Watson, former University of Michigan track captain, did it in 1940. Watson would be still around. And so would another Wolverine, Walter Arrington and Joshua Williamson, a Xavier alumnus. We would be well fortified here.

In the field events we would be there, too. Archie Harris, with a sleek, lithe, bronze build and resembling a Grecian wrestler of ancient ages, would likely hog the limelight. Harris has hurled the discus better than a 170 feet three times during 1941. He surpassed Hitler's man, Willis Schroder's, world accepted mark of a 174 feet 2½ inches, on June 20, by 6¼ inches.

Harris likewise dabbles in putting the shot. He is the only man to beat Al Blozis, Georgetown University's Goliath, pushing the 16 lb. ball through space in the last two years.

We wouldn't be particularly formidable in the broad jump, though. Eddie Gordon, who seems to go on and on, would no doubt be trying hard. But

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First "Big Time" Symphony Conductor

DEAN DIXON

It was twenty-eight minutes after eight o'clock on the evening of August 10, 1941. The New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in immaculate white tuxedoes sat at attention. The lights dimmed in the Lewisohn Stadium of the College of the City of New York, high above the level blocks of Harlem. Six thousand spectators in summer garb, two-fifths of them colored, leaned forward tense and expectant. The bell tolled and from the left rear door walked a powerfully-built young black man impeccably attired in white flannel to take his place on the podium. He tapped lightly, almost needlessly, for attention. Then, baton aloft, he made musical history.

Never before had a black man directed those 100 masters of music. Everybody present knew that. The great metropolitan newspapers had printed long announcements of it. Next morning the comments of noted music critics were extravagant with their praise. That night under the stars men and women of all social strata, of all colors and nationalities stood and cheered this young black man long and loud. Again and again they called him back to take a bow. In tribute to him the orchestra refused to rise to the applause, preferring that this should be his hour alone.

And rightfully so, too. Here was a young man, 26-year-old Dean Dixon, a New Yorker born and raised, who had triumphed over tremendous obstacles and won his way to a place coveted by thousands but attained by few whites, never before by a Negro. His story points a moral to those young black men and women who, embittered by rebuffs and discriminations, are wont to conclude that "It can't happen here!"

Dean Dixon determined to be a conductor. He studied to be a conductor, taking high honors at the Graduate School of the Julliard School of Music. He became a conductor. One must have experience. Mr. Dixon organized his own little orchestra in Harlem. Kind friends and well-wishers helped. He struggled on until he gained the attention of the musical world. Finally came his big chance. He was engaged by the National Broadcasting Company to conduct the NBC Summer Symphony, the famous orchestra selected and trained by the noted Arturo Toscanini, for two Saturday night concerts, June 21 and 28, over the NBC-Blue network. Thus, after ten years of pioneering as organizer and director of community choral and instrumental musical organizations, he had almost reached the top. He became the first Negro and the youngest man to conduct the NBC orchestra. To complete his conquest of the musical heights, there only remained the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

A further honor has now come to Dean Dixon with the commission to audition players for and to direct the New York NYA Orchestra which many famous conductors have led.

G.S.S.

The South Stirs

(*Continued from page* 318)

tions of working people wherever they may be. But they fear directly the aroused white and black citizens of their own section who challenge them in the deltas and on the ridges.

The South was dying until its working people of both races began to find a new life through the unions. When we are completely organized and completely united, with the continued help of our brothers in the North, who can deny that this whole nation will experience that new birth of democracy which Abraham Lincoln, springing from the loins of the Southern people, foresaw at Gettysburg?

The Tie That Binds

Beneath the brown, the black and white,
The flesh is pink when brought to sight;
The same old loves, the hopes and fears
Will haunt them all through-out the years.

As night comes down when day is done
So is the gauntlet of life run . . .
The trees and flowers of yesterday
Remain when night is rolled away.

The prejudice of years still stands!
My people kneel with lifted hands,
And bow before a God who slights
The tie that binds both blacks and whites!

—John Adolph Turner

THE CRISIS—$1.50 A YEAR
AN IDEAL BIRTHDAY GIFT

From the Press of the Nation

Editorial of the Month

They Deserve Something Better

New York, N. Y., *Amsterdam Star-News*

In the wake of the reign of terror that has swept over a number of army camps during the past few weeks there has arisen a storm of protest that is certain to bring some action from the White House.

With the international situation becoming more acute each day, and soldiers growing tenser as they see themselves being drawn closer to the battlefield, the possibility of uprising more tragic than anything seen so far appears well within the bounds of reason.

The appointment of Brig. Gen. Osborn to be in charge of army morale may be regarded as a step, but unless his job is to improve the relationship between Negro and white troops and Negro troops and white civilians, we fear his efforts are going to be in vain.

It is impossible for the army to maintain its morale as long as there are two sets of rules for soldiers of the same rank. It is high time for the United States to lay its cards on the table. Either the Negro is a soldier with full status, entitled to all the benefits and protection granted all others, or he is merely a flunky in uniform with no rights anyone is bound to respect.

For many years we argued that if mobs were allowed to lynch Negroes with impunity the time would come when white men and women would not be safe from the mob. We have seen this come to pass.

Thus we don't see how the government can permit its uniform on a Negro soldier to be disrespected and escape eventual disrespect for the uniform worn by all soldiers. Negro soldiers don't deserve the treatment they are receiving from the U. S., and a united people ought to rise up and demand that the black boys be given an even break. Write your congressman today!

What will be the end of the war being waged in this country that finds the Southern states fighting recognition of Negroes as citizens and soldiers?

What is more important: retention and safeguard of the sovereignty of this nation or loss of it by sabotage of those who seek to protect the status quo in the Southern states?

With a war going on in Europe and this country doing everything and using everything in its power to protect and insure the permanence of all the gains that we have accumulated since 1776, there are still many communities where it is more important to make a Negro take a back seat on a bus than it is to train soldiers to protect this country against possible and eventual invasion when and if Hitler defeats Russia and England.

Negroes may have been America's most loyal group, but even a faithful hound will wean away from a master who kicks him around all of the time. . . .

Unless President Roosevelt is wise and does something immediately he may have a harder time subduing the Negrophobes in this country than he will throttling the Hitler hordes abroad. . . . Houston, Texas, *Defender*.

In modern army setups, attached to most units is a morale officer who is charged with keeping the men satisfied. In fact, recently President Roosevelt has named and the senate confirmed Frederick Henry Ashborne as brigadier general in the Reserve Corps with immediate active service as morale officer.

It seems to us that if any unit needs the service of this department they are those composed of Negro soldiers. And it seems that if properly handled most of the trouble that has occurred between soldiers and unscrupulous white people in the South could be avoided. . . . Des Moines, Iowa, *Bystander*.

It is painful to us to even think that it is necessary in times like these to find ourselves not so enthusiastic about stopping Herr Adolph Hitler in his world conquest. Our deepest concern just now is to protect the Negroes who are in the armed forces of the American government from the Hitlerism of the white people of the South.

We know of nothing more indicative of the need of a real democracy at home than the shameful treatment of the Negroes in Uncle Sam's uniform by the hierarchy of the plutocratic South which is ruled by race prejudice. If the government has one sacred obligation it is that of protecting its men in uniform. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Argus*.

If President Roosevelt is as moved by the persecution of Negro soldiers as he was by the persecution of German Jews, he does not have to violate the Administration's tradition of "not offending the South" by speaking out, as he did against the bloody revels of Hitler's Storm Troopers. All he has to do is to order Negro soldiers moved out of the South, and we urge that this be done immediately.

Since the Administration lacks the courage to end racial segregation in the Army, the only sensible alternative is to move Negro soldiers to stations where segregation will be less distasteful and destructive of morale. . . . Pittsburgh, Pa., *Courier*.

The wave of beating and killing of Negro soldiers encamped in southern communities should be checked without delay and the guilty persons brought to trial. The War Department should have taken stern measures long ago to prevent the recurrence of these monstrous incidents. A week seldom passes that a Negro soldier is not assaulted or killed by southern white morons . . .

Unless the War Department steps in at once, the cumulative weight of these weekly incidents may cause race riots of devastating and embarrassing proportions. A country engaged in preparation for defense and in forging national unity cannot afford the ugly implications and consequences of racial strife. It is bad enough for the Negro soldier to be Jim-crowed. He should not have to endure insults, humiliation, and death at the hands of irresponsible and prejudiced white trash. . . . Chicago, Ill., *Defender*.

We know that our Federal Government can stop mobs from molesting Negro soldiers and their white officers. If the Government has the power and authority to send soldiers to take charge of strike-bound aviation plants and shipyards, certainly the Government can move in, if it desires to do so, and stop mobs in the South from kicking and spitting on Negro soldiers and forcing them to walk in ditches along the highways as they march to war games. . . . St. Louis, Mo., *Call*.

Haiti's President

(*Continued from page* 313)

stood against our plans. The chief difficulty, all agreed, was language. Translations would help but the natives of the United States would need to handle French and the Haitians would need to continue their study of English. The President said that he was especially interested in securing teachers of English from the United States who knew enough French to teach in Haiti. Already, the American language is taught in many of the higher schools. There is an English hour on the local radio stations and many listeners tune in programs from over here. Since the collapse of France, Haitian scholars are expected to turn more and more to American universities.

Business and Color

The final question revolved around business. This was a little outside of the general discussion but had come up unavoidably because we had been shocked by the number of Europeans who owned and operated some of the better businesses in the "Black Republic." In some districts over half of the merchants were Europeans or white American immigrants. The reason for this, it was explained, was that the tradition of the "upper class" in Haiti has been toward politics and the professions rather than commerce and industry and that the "lower class" lack both training and capital for such endeavor.

The President spoke at length on this subject. He told of his visits to colleges such as West Virginia State where Haitian coffee had been served and other Haitian products used. He thought so much of the possibilities of the Negro market, along with the general American market, that he intends to send a special agent to promote the sale of Haitian exports in this country. *He extended an invitation for Negro business men to develop enterprises in Haiti.*

Dr. Mars reminded us that our conversation should be drawing to a close. The President himself enjoyed talking and continued for a few moments longer. Champagne and cakes were served. We drank a toast to each other's health, "a votre sante." In his inaugural address the President had spoken of "a wider and wider social justice." Thus, we gave a mutual pledge to work for a real social democracy in the United States and in Haiti; moreover as an important step in this direction to join "hands across the ocean."

As "au revoirs" were said all around, we drove away. Now, we had a clearer conception of the reason so many people, from different sections and classes, had told us that the greatest hope for Haiti was Elie Lescot himself.

Track Stars

(*Continued from page* 321)

Clarence Lewis, of Rankin, Pa., and junior AAU champion, would be our most dependable delegate. Lewis owns the hop, step and jump title, too. Perhaps challenging for a place also would be Herb Douglas.

As things stand now, we would have but one standout competitor in the high jump. Adam Berry, of Southern University, who has done better than 6 feet 8 inches, is that youngster. Mel Walker, who did very well while at Ohio State, is in the twilight of his career. And none of the others appear as much of a threat.

Now a few paragraphs about Ewell. During a two-year varsity college career, this brown youth has gathered a flourishing total of 52 first places. He has never been conquered in a dual meet. In the 65 year-old IC4A meet, he is the only performer who has ever scored two triples. He first did in 1940, and repeated this year.

Barney zoomed the 50-yard dash at the Penn A. C. indoor meet, in 1939, which had never been done before. The next season, he promptly sliced that figure by a tenth of a second.

Ewell has held the NCAA 100 and 200 yards championships for two years. This year, in winning the AAU 100-meter, he equalled the Olympic and senior AAU mark of 10.3.

This mark for the AAU was previously held exclusively by Harold Davis, Salinas Junior College (Calif.) white boy, who has been shouldering the label of the "world's fastest human." Davis, incidentally, is the only man who has licked Ewell twice in one day. He did in the 1940 AAU's.

Going from Lancaster, Pa., High School, Barney carried with him a rapturous repertory of scholastic records to his alma mater. Chick Werner, Penn State's track coach, calls Barney the greatest competitor he has ever seen. And Barney is very sharp when the pressure is turned on.

All this is appropriate because collegiate action for him may encounter necessary recess next year. His number is up. The draft number, we mean. The last heard of Ewell indicated that he had an appointment to keep with his selective service board.

Our Women Athletes

Our feminine side of the picture is almost as bright. Not being persistently repetitious, but our gilded lady would be Jean Lane. Miss Lane is unofficial holder of three world records. She has streaked the 100 yards in 10.9, the 200 meters indoors in 25.1, and the 200 meters outdoors in 25.2. And, we daresay, she is yet to reach her zenith.

Following Jean for glory would be the Women AAU 400-meter relay team from Tuskegee, Lucy Newell, Lelia Perry, Alice Coachman, and Rowena Harrison. Misses Newell, Perry and Coachman are individual champions as well.

Seventeen year-old Lucy Newell is the AAU 50-meter champion. Miss Perry is the 80-meter queen. Miss Coachman caresses the high jumping honors. Bringing up the rear would be Miss Jeanette Jones, of Harrisburg, Pa.; Misses Hattie Hall, Lillie Purifoy and Hester Brown, of Tuskegee.

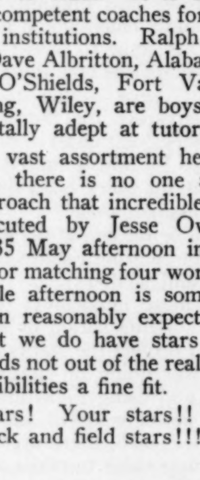
The most recent notable trend is the boom in the development of Negro college track talent. During, and prior to, the last Olympics, we could scarcely buy, beg, borrow—or purloin—an adequate track and field athlete produced by our academic institutions.

But not so now. There are more of our own college-bred cinderpath artists in existence now than you can shake a stick at. It is truly a lush era.

The factor behind this transformation isn't hard to trace. It is simply the hiring of competent coaches for the sport at Negro institutions. Ralph Metcalfe, Xavier; Dave Albritton, Alabama State; William O'Shields, Fort Valley, and Fred Long, Wiley, are boys who are fundamentally adept at tutoring track.

In our vast assortment hereinbefore presented, there is no one alive who could approach that incredible performance executed by Jesse Owens that warm 1935 May afternoon in Chicago. Breaking or matching four world records in a single afternoon is something no mortal can reasonably expect to duplicate. But we do have stars who will give records not out of the realm of ordinary possibilities a fine fit.

Our stars! Your stars!! But definitely, track and field stars!!!



Why Not A Negro Art Center?

By Vernon Winslow

The author says: "We have neglected to establish a single institution devoted to the professional training of Negro artists. Like trying to pin the tail on the donkey, our educational thinking realizes art education as a necessity, but doesn't quite know where to place it"

WEREN'T you proud?

For one hour a radio program containing the voices of Marion Anderson, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, and Canada Lee, the music of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington poured forth in a constant stream of excellent entertainment an appeal for the American Negro. And just imagine how many listeners, moved by these messages, gave serious consideration to our appeal for measures of social justice. In fact, on this occasion, it is no secret that most of us indulged in a little pardonable boasting about our artists.

We might be pardoned also for the same indulgence when Eleanor Roosevelt, standing in a gallery of paintings by Negro artists, dedicated the South Side Community Art Center on May 7th. On that day every Negro within the sweeping scope of radio, accepted the right to glow and beam over the achievements contained in this event. And millions did.

These two occasions, along with countless others, seem to indicate that as Negroes, we do have positive talents worth boasting about. These occasions, too, are but fingers pointing to the enormous amount of "carrying-power" which Negro art has long had for the socio-economic growth of our group. How many instances can you recall when a person, indifferent and hostile toward us, has become sympathetic and helpful because of a Negro spiritual he has heard or a Negro painting he has seen? It has been said that more racial good will than can ever be estimated was achieved by Richard Harrison as "De Lawd" in "Green Pastures." Indeed, most of our struggles and our dilemmas have reached a working solution only after these problems have been wrapped in song or in a story and presented to an un-informed public. Possessing a pronounced capacity for creative arts, the Negro has adopted, in some degree, this talent even for the promotion of his educational institutions. Take our universities, for instance. The struggle of Tuskegee was largely relieved by the response of American philanthropy toward Booker Washington's presentation of the practical arts. Fisk owes much of its prestige to the famous Jubilee Singers who carried the message of their school far and wide. Likewise, Atlanta University can trace some of its recognition to the pens of DuBois and James Weldon Johnson, while Dillard University, young as it is, has become almost synonymous with its Arts Festival. In most of his experiences the Negro and his institutions have been compelled to create, and each instance of creation becomes, then, a device toward the process of his adjustment.

Parks Photo

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt dedicating the South Side Community Art Center, Chicago, Ill., May, 1941

Creative Plan Needed

The persistent operation of this process, which has accompanied our growth since slavery, has solved many a problem pertaining to our general education. There are few evidences, however, of such a creative plan towards our art education. In fact, many people are of the opinion that artists achieve success by substituting hunger and hardships for special training. But when we consider what riches we actually have, the least we can do is to next think of proper instruction and development. Here we have a race of people whose artistic sensitivity has never been doubted; we have listened to innumerable speeches paying tribute to our creative genius. We have even acknowledged the fact that true American art has its roots deeply embedded within our heritage. And yet, despite all this, we have neglected to establish a single institution devoted to the professional training of Negro artists. Like trying to pin the tail on the donkey, our educational thinking realizes art education as a necessity, but doesn't quite know where to place it.

Obviously, many northern communities could profit from the existence of such an institution. However, I would choose the South. This placement is based upon reasons which have caused most of our other schools to be amassed in that section. It is here that should be erected a Negro art center which would emphasize not only the fine arts, but also the training which would allow its graduates to assume a functional responsibility within their particular communities. To correlate such an institution with the present agencies of Negro education would create a valuable vanguard for the forces of racial security and articulation.

Assuming here that such an art center is an essential supplement to our training processes in the south, the curricular dimensions of this school need not vary from the general pattern of most accredited professional schools. It seems desirable that the program be on the same level with other undergraduate education, treating the first years rather broadly, then following this with more intensive work. The division of this program might easily follow these lines:

First year
  Elements of workshop training
  Elements of plastic representation
  Elements of the sciences

Related work: Survey of Art, Survey of Music

Second and third years
Specialized workshop training in:
    Graphic arts (painting, photography, typography fresco, theatrical display, window display, decorating)
  Plastic arts (wood, metal, plastics; sculpture in clay, glass, stone and metal)
  Textile arts (weaving, dyeing and fashion work)

Related work: field work in community, physics, chemistry, etc.

Fourth year
  Teacher training
  Landscape architecture

Rural planning
Related work: sociology, psychology, labor problems; field work

As in the first year, related academic subjects continue to follow the divisional requirements. Throughout the entire four years the student might be urged to analyze the "old masters," discovering for himself within his own environment the same principles which prompted the old world artists toward achievement. In this way the principles of self-experience, art and creative thinking are all brought together in a combination which allows a closer artistic feeling for one's everyday environment. Furthermore, our proposed curriculum must be interpreted only as a possible step toward a solution; not as a mandatory structure, for it must be remembered that the problems of the south are not simple ones and will demand many adjustments.

Need Intelligent Compromise

For in school as well as out the Negro has been forced to accept many compromises in keeping with the prevailing racial restrictions. But intelligent compromise is not objectionable. Our hair-straightening industries and our insurance companies testify to this. We must not forget that the adjustment processes of any group provide the existence of millions of people whose daily needs still continue. Among these needs is the calling for artists. Not painters and sculptors alone, but persons who can help supply creative answers to the problems of bad housing, juvenile delinquency, poverty and Negro merchandising. Think for a moment of the need for such artists in a city, say like Atlanta, Georgia. Insurance companies, a daily newspaper, a chain of drug stores and countless enterprising merchants who are all in constant need for the services of layout men, window dressers, interior designers, landscape gardeners, ceramic artists, furniture remodelers, commercial photographers, capable printers and silk screen artists. Meanwhile, thousands of Georgia youth, possessing natural talents, are deprived of the proper training with which they might establish their own vocational security. In Nashville, Tennessee, the need follows a somewhat different pattern. Businesses here are less flourishing than in Atlanta. However, we find in Nashville a shift toward the correction of its housing problems in both the urban and rural areas. With extreme poverty entering this picture, there is a need for artists who must be able to work with architectural rehabilitation; there is also a need for persons with a knowledge of organizing and developing folk-art tendencies. New Orleans and Birmingham, as well as many other places, also present areas in which social developments demand this type of trained person. Moreover, the presence of housing projects, community art centers and federal positions themselves, strongly urge a more related course of art instruction.

One of the most glaring cases of incomplete art instruction occurred to a friend of mine last year who was about to be graduated as an art major from one of our universities. He had planned to take a civil service examination for the position of government illustrator. His training had included only the traditional painting, sculpture and art history, therefore when he was presented with an examination containing problems in isometric perspective, air brush rendering and orthographic projection, his failure was inevitable. Compare his situation with that of a science major whose four year course at least prepares him to pass a civil service examination. Then multiply this instance by the number of art students in Negro colleges and you will obtain a faint idea of the price we are paying simply because we lack natural association of technology, arts, and crafts. Remember this terrible price is exacted from youngsters whose only "handicap" is their residence in the south.

South Growing

Cases of this kind are not likely to become less frequent. On the contrary, if the recent rumors from the census bureau are correct, they will become more numerous. Although full compilations have not been revealed, our 1940 census seems to indicate that the only section of this country reproducing itself is the south. This means that, although the population of other regions remains static, the south continues to give birth to more reasons for additional agencies of creative adjustment. A noted author in a recent article reminds us ". . . that the old order is dead, that art must serve life, people . . ." And since education concerns itself primarily with people, there is still another problem which could very well be solved by an art center.

Lurking in the background, nevertheless playing a great part in any cultural expansion, we find the item of migration. Today this migratory tendency seems to be expressed in the current trend toward urbanization. Let me make myself clear. Population trends seem to reveal that there is being formed in these United States a new average-sized city. Persons, who are able, leave the crowded metropolis to live in less congested towns. Likewise, persons who have lived in lonely forsaken spots tend to migrate to villages which contain more civic advantages. As Walter Pitkin states, ". . . the shift is away from the biggest cities and away from the wilderness. Both extremes are losing: the middle ground gains." Now hold this point for a moment and note what E. Franklin Frazier reveals in his recent study of the Negro Family: ". . . thus one of the main results of urbanization of the Negro population has been the emergence of the black industrial proletariat." In other words this migration is drawing together greater numbers of potential Negro artisans. Now here is my point: since this emergent urbanization is being met with increasing racial cooperation in the north, and since this same movement is denied industrial absorption in the south—are not more southern agencies needed in order that black artisans might be absorbed by their own economy? In creative training there seems to be an answer.

Other avenues of professional training have seen and accepted this answer. The careers of medicine, surgery, religion, social work, teaching, business administration and pharmacy are all treated in our universities with full curricular dignity, imparting to the graduate a feeling of functional inclusiveness within his native or chosen community. If a student desires to pursue the study of medicine he may enter either Meharry or Howard; if he chooses religion, there is either Gammon, Morehouse or Howard; the Atlanta School of Social Work is open to him if he decides in this direction; pedagogy too, is offered in many universities, while business and pharmacy can be obtained at either Atlanta or Xavier Universities, respectively. There can be no doubt but that each avenue of training has immeasurably benefited its related profession. The problems offered by the community provide a keener edge to the course of study which in turn penetrates the community with a higher degree of progressive effort. Since Negro medicine has entered the south, syphilis and tuberculosis are now faced with less dread and fear. Better case work and therapy, and more jobs have resulted from the efforts of properly trained social workers focusing their efforts upon blighted areas. Supplementing this approach, we find the efforts of our trained teachers, clergymen and businessmen. The only profession handicapped for lack of training seems to be that of the artist. Many of us are still inclined to think that his needs are limited to a garret and a smock, just as years ago we believed that all the Negro needed was a song.

Sensitiveness Toward Beauty

"All Negroes can sing." How many

(*Continued on page* 331)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

The Defense Job Front

Two Plants Opened. The Fairchild Aviation Corporation, Long Island City, N. Y.; and the Colt Firearms company of Hartford, Conn., were reported early in September by the Fair Employment Practice Committee of Washington, D. C., to be willing to employ Negro skilled workers.

Sun-Roc Spring Water company, the Landsdowne Steel and Iron company, and the Crucible Steel Casting company, all located in Philadelphia, Pa., suburbs, are employing 220 Negroes out of a total of 570 employes, according to a survey made by the Media, Pa., branch of the N.A.A.C.P. Of the Negro total, 48 are skilled workers, and 172 are laborers.

Complaints to FEPC. Complaints of discrimination and defiance of the President's Executive Order against discrimination continued to pile up in the FEPC:

(1) The Chrysler corporation, which has huge defense orders for tanks and other equipment, has announced through its personnel manager, C. T. Winegar, that Negroes are not admitted to its present training program; Dodge, Chrysler subsidiary, is accused of refusing three Negro applicants, and the Chrysler corporation itself is said to have turned down a Negro stenographer certified for civil service.

(2) Briggs Manufacturing company of Detroit, largest maker of automobile bodies in the United States, and holder of large defense orders, is accused of refusing to employ three Negro aeroriveters referred to the job by the Michigan state employment service.

(3) The Sperry company of Brooklyn, N. Y., and the Ford Instrument company, a Sperry subsidiary, makers of precision instruments for the Air Corps and the Navy, are accused of discrimination against Negro workers while importing white workers from as far away as Mississippi.

(4) The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 816, A. F. of L., and the Manhattan Construction company engaged in erecting a bomber plant at Tulsa, Okla., were accused by Negro carpenters in the area of failure to employ Negroes on the job.

(5) Budd Wheel company, along with Timken Axle company, and Kelsey Hayes company, all of Detroit, Mich., were accused of refusing to employ a Negro spot welder.

(6) Boeing Aircraft company, Seattle, Washington, builders of the famed "Flying Fortresses" are accused of continuing their policy of refusing to hire Negro workers on the excuse that they have a contract with the Aeronautical Mechanics Union, Local 751, International Association of Machinists, A. F. of L. The company states that the union has a lily-white policy.

(7) The International Shoe company, with headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., and a branch factory at Marshall, Mo., is said to have 1500 workers in the branch plant working on orders for Army shoes, and to have a policy of refusing to hire Negroes.

(8) New Jersey WPA Administrator Robert W. Allan is reported as having told the Atlantic City, N. J., N.A.A.C.P. branch that WPA in New Jersey was restricting the training of Negroes because industry would not hire them. The situation was referred to the FEPC.

(9) Construction companies working on United States air and naval bases in the Caribbean are continuing their policy of refusing to employ American Negroes in any capacity, and West Indian Negroes in a very small percentage of laboring jobs only.

Placement Figures. Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt issued a breakdown of Negro placements in jobs from January to May, 1941. The total was 414,595, broken down as follows:

Professional and managerial, 219, or one-tenth per cent.

Clerical and sales, 2,366, or six-tenths per cent.

Service, 242,049, or 58.3 per cent.

Agriculture, fishery and forestry, 17,681, or 4.3 per cent.

Skilled, 7,054, or 1.7 per cent.

Unskilled, 129,784, or 31.3 per cent.

Unspecified, 2.

1940 Annual Report
10 cents

There are a few annual reports of the N.A.A.C.P. for the year 1940 still available. This is the only official report of the Association's activities in its many departments. It includes an audited financial statement. Send 10 cents to the national office, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., and the report will be mailed promptly.

Army Machinery Adequate To Prove Interracial Clashes, Say Chiefs

The suggestion of the N.A.A.C.P. that a civilian-military board of inquiry be appointed to investigate clashes between Negro soldiers and white military police and to recommend a course of procedure was refused formally by the War Department in a letter from Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, to Walter White. Mr. Patterson wrote:

"It is most unwise to subject the command functions of responsible Army tactical commanders to review by an agency outside the War Department. The Negro in the Army is amply protected by the civilian heads of the Army. (The President, Secretary of War and his civilian assistants.—Ed.)

"You may rest assured, however, that the War Department can and will maintain the dignity of the uniform and the personnel which wears it. Inquiries will be conducted in a thorough and impartial manner; remedial action will be prompt and effective."

The N.A.A.C.P. suggestion grew out of the killing of a Negro private and a white military policeman on August 6 at Fort Bragg, N. C.; and the occurrence at Gurdon, Arkansas, late in August when Negro members of the 94th Engineers were terrorized by armed civilians and state highway police to such an extent that scores of the soldiers left the outfit and headed north to their homes in Detroit and Chicago.

The suggestion was prompted not only by these two serious clashes, but by persistent and repeated reports from many camps in the South of the arrogant, "quick-trigger" actions of white military police in handling Negro soldiers.

The basic trouble, contends the N.A.A.C.P., is the segregation policy of the War Department.

Branch News

Arizona: In August the Winslow branch celebrated its first anniversary with a buffet luncheon and a program. W. L. Reeves was master of ceremonies, and talks were given by F. H. Johnson of Riverside, Calif., and T. W. Garrison of Flagstaff, Ariz. Members and friends of the branch enjoyed a picnic on the 19th under the leadership of T. J. McCool, vice-president. Mrs. Estella Lewis, chairman of the membership committee, has been recently commended for her active work in securing members.

District of Columbia: The 5-week strike at the S. and W. Cafeteria, reported in an earlier issue of the branch news, has ended with the workers returning to work with definite improvements in their working conditions. The D. C. branch gave the strikers and their union full support, serving on the picket line, contributing to the soup kitchen, and assisting the Union in the defense of pickets who were arrested. The settlement provides for increases in pay, one week vacations with pay, paid holidays and security against arbitrary discharges.

Protesting as unnecessarily severe and possibly unconstitutional, proposals for the control of crime in the District of Columbia embodied in House Resolutions 5447 and 5448 on Criminal Offenses and Vagrancy, the D. C. branch has requested an opportunity to appear in any further congressional hearings on this proposed legislation. Dr. Leon A. Ransom, chairman of the committee on legal redress and legislation, has stated that the Bills in their present form may be used "with dire results against an unprotected minority group in this country." Dr. Ransom wrote to Senator McCarran, that "recent crime conditions in the District which undoubtedly prompted the introduction of these bills, have resulted in their passage through committee without effective protest against their provisions." He urged that Sen. Capper's request that the bills be recalled for a rehearing and that those interested in the welfare of citizens in the community be given an opportunity to be heard thereupon, be acceded. There was no quarrel with the purpose of the bills but there are incontrovertible arguments against the passage of these bills in their present form. In answer to an open letter to Acting Superintendent E. J. Kelly by the D. C. Branch, the Police chief said he would be glad to discuss the conduct and administration of the Force in an interview. Dr. Ransom stated that an appointment would be sought for himself and members of the executive committee of the D. C. branch.

Illinois: The Springfield branch sponsored an emancipation celebration on September 22. H. R. Alexander was chairman of the committee in charge, and J. H. Hill, secretary.

Michigan: The Detroit branch conducted a mass meeting in August protesting the treatment of Negro selectees of the 94th Engineers from Fort Custer while on maneuvers in Arkansas. Speakers included Rev. W. H. Peck, Rev. H. White, Dr. J. J. McClendon, president of the branch, and State Senator Charles Diggs.

New York: More than 60 persons attended a garden tea in August given by the entertainment committee of the Peekskill branch, at the home of Mrs. John Jackson. Assistants on the committee were Mrs. J. Fipps and Mrs. S. McCrae.

West Virginia: The following programs have been planned by Mrs. T. G. Nutter for future meetings of the Charleston branch: *October,* Dr. Malcolm S. McLean, president of Hampton Institute, Va.; *November,* Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP; *December,* Kanawha Lodge of the Independent Elks of the World and Kanawha Valley Temple; *January,* Nu, Alpha Omicron Omega, and Beta Beta Omega chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. In *February* it is planned for the youth council to give a program; *March,* Delta Sigma Theta sorority; *April,* Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity; and in *May,* the Junior League.

For Five Cents

A handy condensed history of the Negro in America. Answers many questions. Contains much useful information uncovered by a special research staff. Nicely bound as a paper cover booklet. We have several hundred copies of an overstock. Ideal for family libraries, students, study clubs, and all persons interested in information on the Negro. Send stamps or money orders at the rate of five cents each for as many copies as you wish to the N.A.A.C.P., 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

BRANCH NEWS

Send news items from your branch to reach THE CRISIS *before* the 10th of the month

Youth Council News

Third Annual Student Conference

The third observance of the Annual Student Conference will be held October 31, November 1-2, at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. The theme of the meeting will be "Current Problems in America for Negro Youth."

Dr. Eduard C. Lindeman, of the New York School of Social Work will deliver the opening address.

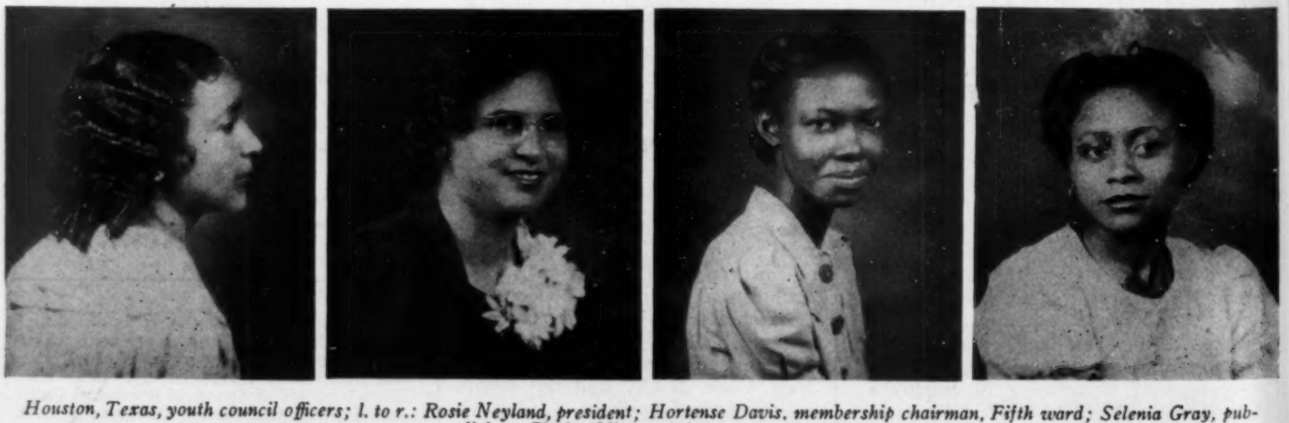
Panel discussions will include "Civil Liberties and Negro Youth," led by W. Robert Ming, Jr., of Howard University Law School, and Peter B. Schroeder, Prof. of History, Hampton Institute; "Negro Youth and Labor Unions," led by Dr. Charles L. Franklin, Social Security Board; "Negro Youth as a Consumer," speakers include Ella Baker, assistant field secretary of the Association, and Samuel A. Rosenberg, Division of Business, Hampton Institute; "Defense and Negro Youth," led by Judge William H. Hastie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War, Dean O'Hara Lanier, Dean of Instruction, Hampton Institute, and Rev. James H. Robinson, former acting youth director and pastor of the Church of the Master, New York City; "Problems for Negro Youth in Education," led by Dr. Charles H. Thompson editor, Journal of Negro Education.

Various social activities have been planned. There will be a conference dance, presentation of "Place: America" and "Ballad for Americans." The delegates will also have an opportunity to witness the football game between Lincoln University and Hampton Institute.

The sessions will close on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. with speeches by Dr. Flemmie P. Kittrell, Dean of Women at Hampton, and Walter White, secretary of the Association.

Registration fee is one dollar. Board and Lodging for the entire week-end is two dollars and fifty-cents.

Pontiac, Mich.: Representatives of the junior youth council of Flint, and of the Pontiac youth council participated in an open forum on Sunday afternoon, August 10, sponsored by the Southwest Community Centre, in Pontiac. The subject was the Negro's Participation in the National Defense Program. Representatives from the Flint council included Dorothy Kinley, Her-



Houston, Texas, youth council officers; l. to r.: Rosie Neyland, president; Hortense Davis, membership chairman, Fifth ward; Selenia Gray, publicity; Cleola Oliver, assistant secretary man Gibson, and John Rawls. Wendell Williams, Robert Noble, James Murphy and Marie Johnson were the Pontiac representatives. At the conclusion of the discussion a resolution was adopted to continue this type of educational activity and to intercede for job placements for skilled and trained workers now available.

Davenport, Iowa: East Moline has set up an Organization Committee for the formation of a youth council of the N.A.A.C.P. The following officers have been elected: Marshal Lanier, Moline, president; Ruth Holland, Rock Island, 1st vice-president; William Simmons, East Moline 2nd vice-president; Claresa Allston, East Moline, secretary; Martha Stoner, Rock Island, treasurer. A committee has been appointed to investigate and study NYA activities for colored youth in their community.

Waynesboro, Va.: The Waynesboro youth council held its annual membership drive July 1-15. The membership committee included: Alexander Brown, John H. Perry, Everett Cauls, Marie Cannady, Mrs. Lillian Crawford, Mrs. Mason, Miss Harris, Violett O. Pannell, Albert Simms, and Elywood Lewis.

Jacksonville, Fla.: The Jacksonville youth council reported the following new members: Norma Littlejohn, Nancy Smith, James Harris, Grettie O. Edwards, Josephine Mayberry, and Louise Williams. Mrs. T. E. Griffin is the adult advisor.

Philadelphia, Pa.: On Thursday, July 24, the Philadelphia youth council sponsored a card party at the Snellenburg auditorium.

Bronx, N. Y.: The Bronx youth council has been reorganized and during the summer months sponsored a project known as an Activities Program for Children. They maintained a playground and secured the cooperation of city officials and business men in their community acting as sponsors for this movement. Roy H. Lee is adult advisor.

New Youth Councils Chartered: The Dallas, Texas, and the Tulare, Calif., youth councils have been awarded an official charter of the Association. Mrs. Eric Bodden is adult advisor for the Dallas group, and J. C. Price is president of the Tulare council.

Jersey City, N. J.: The Jersey City youth council has sent in their semi-annual report for 1941. Various activities participated in throughout the first half of the year included an Installation Tea, debate, observance of National Negro Youth Week, dances, popularity contest, boat rides, skating parties and a study of the F.H.A. as it affects the Negro. Inter-community activities have been carried on with the councils from Elizabeth and Montclair. George F. Palmer is president of the group, and Dr. P. F. Sinclair is advisor.

NEXT MONTH

The second article in the series, "The South Stirs," by Harold Preece next month deals with the fight for civil rights.

ON TO CALIFORNIA!

for the

1942 NAACP Conference

The Jersey City, N. J., branch is the first in the entire country to form an "On to California" committee whose duty will be to make plans and raise funds to send delegates to the 33rd annual conference of the NAACP in Los Angeles next summer.

Not for fourteen years—since 1928—has the NAACP met on the Pacific Coast. Our Far Western branches, from the smallest to the largest in Los Angeles itself, are preparing a great welcome for their fellow members from east of the Rockies.

Begin *now* to set aside money for delegates from your branch. Begin *now* to plan to be on the NAACP special train when it leaves Chicago for Golden California.

From the Eastern seaboard the round trip fare in coaches is about $90. First class fare, round trip, from the Eastern seaboard is about $135, plus $45 for round trip lower berth. Fares from other cities in proportion.

Special information on fares, with details about the special train, will be ready about November 1. Write to the National Office.

Meanwhile, branches should appoint special California Conference Committees. Begin to save up the money for fares.

When the roll is called in sunny Los Angeles next summer—*be there!*

ON TO CALIFORNIA!

Cleveland NAACP Secretary

MRS. McKNIGHT

Mrs. Bella Taylor McKnight, former field secretary of the National Board of the Y.W.C.A., and wife of William T. McKnight, Cleveland attorney, has been appointed executive secretary of the Cleveland, O., branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mrs. McKnight succeeds Charles W. Quick, attorney, who has accepted a law professorship at North Carolina State College. She assumed her new duties September 22. Headquarters of the Cleveland branch will remain at 9014 Cedar Avenue.

Mrs. McKnight comes to her new position with a background of wide experience. After her graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1923, having majored in sociology and social service, she became Girl Reserve Secretary of the Indiana Avenue branch of the Chicago Y.W.C.A. In 1926 she was called to the National Staff of the Y.W.C.A. with headquarters in New York City, where she was assigned first to the National Girl Reserve Department, and later to the National Services Division. In these capacities she travelled for six years throughout the United States supervising work, interpreting the philosophy and techniques of the Y.W.C.A., conducting training courses and conferences, doing personnel and interracial work.

In 1932, Mrs. McKnight resigned from the national staff and moved to Philadelphia to establish her home with her husband. She was asked to accept a position with the Southwest Branch of the Y.W.C.A. there, with which position she remained a year, when she left to accompany her husband to Toledo, Ohio, where he had opened law offices.

The most unique experience of Mrs. McKnight's career began in 1933, when she became Interracial Executive Secretary of the Toledo Y. W. C. A. in which capacity she served for the following six years, doing interracial interpretation and also carrying general staff responsibilities. This work brought Mrs. McKnight in contact with civic, educational, labor, and religious groups.

In June, 1939, Mrs. McKnight was appointed Senior Interviewer in the Toledo office of the Ohio State Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, and remained in that position until she resigned in August of this year to make her home in Cleveland.

While living in Toledo, Mrs. McKnight was active with the Toledo Branch N.A.A.C.P., serving in membership drives and on committees. She was appointed chairman of the Industrial Committee, Race Relations Department of the Toledo Council of Churches, and co-chairman of the Race Relations Committee of the Y.W.C.A. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Toledo Young Women's Christian Association, the National Interracial Committee of the Girls' Friendly Society, and the State Board of the Women's Department, Ohio Council of Churches.

Mr. McKnight is an attorney for the United States Department of Labor, with headquarters here.

Harlem Co-op

(*Continued from page* 319)

ment was set at $15 per member-family. Since by this time, they had nearly a hundred recruits, they felt they could go ahead with plans.

Store Is Opened

Mr. Ramsey was elected business manager. His devotion to the Co-op made him take a leave of absence from his job as a salesman with a coal company and apply his knowledge of business methods and of many householders in the Harlem community to the management of the store. And at a reduced income.

It was only by careful shopping for ultimate values in equipment, pinching pennies here, counting quarters there, that the store was able to announce that it was open for business on May 31, at 479 W. 150th Street. No young parents with their first-born were more proud than the Co-ops were that day.

They have good reason to be, for from 23 items stocked during the buying club stage, they now carry nearly 280, and they came through the slack summer season with an average weekly business of approximately $300. They even sell automobile tires, vacuum cleaners and refrigerators on order. In addition to Mr. Ramsey, the Modern Co-op pays a part-time clerk, who is also a member. The salaries of both will be increased as the business warrants.

The enterprise is incorporated and is capitalized at $50,000 which permits the issuance of 10,000 shares of stock at par value of five dollars a share. The stock is not transferable except with the consent of the board of directors, but is redeemable at par. No dividend is paid. Instead profits are distributed among the members by means of the patronage-rebate system, a standard Rochdale practice. In young cooperatives, like the Modern, the rebate for the first several periods is usually turned back into the business. However, as profits mount, consumer-members are assured of a certain per cent, decided upon by group legislation, in accordance with purchases made.

The Modern Co-op, like all units of its type, was admitted to membership in the ECW after going through a probationary period during which its potentialities for success were measured.

Members feel that the biggest part of their battle is done. They've increased their membership, and they stress the importance of education, naming the difficulties of selling the Co-op label which is relatively unknown, but definitely beneficial to the buyer. This is because all Co-op products are graded. They must meet rigid quality tests and each package or can must state plainly its contents.

The movement is still dynamic, and even with lack of publicity it has gained remarkable momentum. Members of the Modern Co-op have by no means lost their enthusiasm, and are this month launching another membership drive.

Housewife Is President

Activities like this are decided upon and carried out under the direction of the board of directors, headed by Mrs. Thurgood Marshall, who is president, and including Father Denzel A. Carty, of St. Luke's Chapel, Melvin Sykes, Mrs. Minna K. Ross, and Fred S. Moore. Mr. Ramsey is a member of the board ex-officio.

Mr. Ramsey estimates that now between 30 and 40 percent of his patronage is from non-members, but he hopes to increase patronage and membership by providing better quality at reasonable prices.

There is no doubt that the Modern Co-op, Inc., "has something there." They would like to convince all Harlem of its value. Harlem is a tough nut to crack, but if devotion to principle, hard work and enthusiasm can do it, Modern Co-op stands a good chance.

Book Reviews

MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR THE COLORED IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, by Paul J. Taggart, Dept. of Sociology, Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md. 1940. 55 pp., 25¢.

Mr. Taggart prepared his useful survey as a project of his work as a graduate student in sociology at Mt. St. Mary's College, which is located near the field of the Battle of Gettysburg. The brief document cites specific health facilities and expenditures, social, economic and housing problems involved, the toll of the most serious diseases and opportunities for professional training and practice open to Negroes in the District of Columbia. Two questions immediately arise in the mind of the thoughtful reader. Why have not Negroes themselves regularly prepared briefs of this kind in the past and, why did this small Catholic college sponsor the present one? The author answers the latter query. He states that Archbishop Curley "has constantly evinced his desire to bring to the Negro people of his jurisdiction a wealth of spiritual and material consolations." Mr. Taggart's treatise was undertaken as a share "in this Christ-like enterprise." The answer to the first question is less obvious because the Negro in Washington has long possessed the trained personnel, professional facilities and money to have produced a much more exhaustive study than, in the nature of the case, an able student like Mr. Taggart could do. No one interested in health conditions can deny that just such work has been very much needed. One can but express appreciation of this initial effort which must be acknowledged by any subsequent more ambitious project of its kind. Necessary haste probably prevented the author from making improvements in the organization of his material which would have increased the effectiveness of the presentation.

W. Montague Cobb
School of Medicine
Howard University

BUSIED TO MUCH PURPOSE

An analysis of the Specific References to Negroes in Selected Curricula for the Education of Teachers. By Edna Meade Colson, Ph.D. New York: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1940. X+178 pp. $2.00

As the Brobdingnagian title would suggest, this is a doctor's thesis the aim of which is to make an "analysis of specific references to Negroes in the curricula of a selected group of institutions educating teachers." Our author devotes four chapters to this investigation. Her first chapter states the problem and the procedure; her second tells about the "Provisions for the Study of the Negro in Elementary School Courses of Study;" her third studies the Negro in the curricula of a selected group of teachers colleges; while her fourth is devoted to a summary and recommendations. Though Dr. Colson's study follows rigidly the accepted canons of university research, I must report, rather reluctantly, however, that a most careful examination of her tome and her conclusions reveals nothing more startling than the fact that American education gives hardly more than scant attention to the Negro and his problems. In other words, the learned Doctor's conclusions are just about as profound and original as Joseph Prudhomme's observation that "If you separate man from society you isolate him."

Given the present status of the Negro in American society, and the present state of the American mentality in regards to things Negro, it is not at all surprising that comparatively little attention is given to the Negro in our schools and the curricula of our teachers' colleges. And until there are basic alterations in Negro status in American life we can expect little realistic attention to Negro problems in our schools.

It is the belief, on the other hand, of our author and a considerable group of educators, largely members of the "social frontier group" at Teachers' College, that education can lead in social reform instead of following in the wake of social trends. This belief is a form of wish-fulfillment thinking based upon the assumption that social life can be rationalized and that the *processus social* can be rid of its irrational elements and brought under the control of a previously established plan. *Res est ridicula et nimis iocosa.* Such a belief is not a product of scientific observation, but of the educator's *faith*, and one as naive as any ever inherited by man. If the researches of science have established anything, it is that man is at bottom a most irrational animal; a rationalizing rather than a reasoning creature. And *educators* are among the most irrational and confused of the many Jeremiahs who have set out to denounce and save a society.

Teachers and the schools can do little for the amelioration of the lot of the Negro because both hold to the same ideology about the Negro as their surrounding community. Even the beliefs of the Negroes about themselves, and that includes the educated ones, differ little in essentials from those held by the majority of ofay Americans. The average educated blackamoor has no more objective knowledge of his people and their history than a Georgia peon. What he mistakes for knowledge is largely buncombe and emotion.

If this is true of the Negroes themselves, how much truer must it be of white people and white teachers. In the light of these facts our author seems naively optimistic in her "recommendations" and basic assumptions as good and as sensible as most of them are. This study will appeal to the educational specialist and the sociologist rather than the general reader.

James W. Ivy

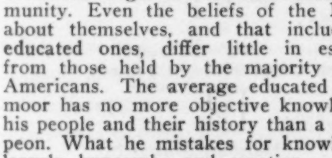
Art Center

(*Continued from page* 326)

times have you heard this statement? Of course it is ludicrous. But it does indicate that here exists a sensitiveness toward beauty of a certain sort, which, if developed, might easily reveal a clue toward the sensible choice of our training methods. The presence of one artistic talent usually indicates another; further investigation of this talent might lead toward a wiser expansion of our educational facilities. I am here reminded of the discovery of petroleum. As you know, oil was once thought to exist only in surface rocks and streams. No one believed that these surface clues indicated huge reservoirs beneath. The need for fuel arose, and finally surface rocks gave way to "gushers" which today determine the pace of our modern mechanization. Who knows but that beneath this bronze throated harmony found within our group there might exist reservoirs even more revolutionary than the discovery of oil? Certainly this sensitivity of ours which has won friends and secured positions for us, which has given us a heritage and a depth of pride, needs to be further explored and developed.

Such exploration and development are already taking place in Chicago. I have reference to two community centers whose programs take into consideration the true source and end of all art: hu-

"You Gotta Stop 'Em To Sell 'Em!"



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man needs; and whose enormous attendances testify to the civic articulation suddenly come to life. Whether the need is cultural, vocational or therapeutic, the South Side Community Art Center and The Good Shepherd Community Center are providing activities that reach down into the blighted portions of Chicago's southside and help relate many forgotten individuals to their environment. At the art center there are adult and children's groups in the fine and related arts; at the Good Shepherd Center are given classes in labor problems, drama, art, in addition to athletic activities. In order that community participation might be unrestrained there is no charge at either institution for these activities. Already some 50,000 attendances have been recorded. Therefore it seems that honest cultural direction and expression has become more completely institutionalized, providing a goal, perhaps, for our southern areas like Atlanta, Nashville, Birmingham and New Orleans.

To many of us it appears that goals are reached and changes are wrought ever so slowly. Nevertheless, this pace has proven to us this fact: we do need the chance to creatively assist our society and at the same time, derive full social benefits from our efforts. Again I quote from Professor Mumford: ". . . for the fact is that creative activity is finally the most important business of mankind. . . . The essential task of all sound activity is to produce a state in which creation will be a common factor in all experience; in which no groups will be denied, by reason of toil or deficient education their share in the culture of the community up to the limits of their personal capacity." These words, of course, apply to the goal of all education. However, in the face of recent community awakenings and the growing need for answers to our particular problems, they carry a special message.

Come to think of it, why not a Negro Art Center in the south?

HOUSING SOLDIER FAMILIES

Federal Works Administrator John M. Carmody has approved a site for the construction of 30 dwellings to provide housing facilities for the families of enlisted and civilian personnel attached to the air base which the Army is building near Tuskegee, Ala., to train Negro officers and enlisted men.

The project site is a five-acre tract which the Federal Works Agency will lease from Tuskegee Institute. It is adjacent to Tuskegee Institute and Greenwood Village, with frontage on Franklin Road. The site is about three miles from the city of Tuskegee and six miles from the air base.

The project will be built under the supervision of the Defense Housing Division of the Federal Works Agency. It is proposed to employ a Negro architect to prepare the plans and specifications.

A recent survey of housing facilities in Macon County indicated that few houses are available for occupancy. The Defense Housing Coordinator has recommended the construction of 55 dwellings by private building agencies for the families of noncommissioned officers, in addition to the Government defense housing project of 30 dwellings.

THREE NEW PROJECTS

Presidential approval of three projects to provide educational and health facilities for Negro civilian and military personnel in defense areas is announced by Federal Works Administrator John M. Carmody. The projects will be developed by FWA's Division of Defense Public Works at a total estimated cost of $370,244. Together with previously approved projects they bring the total of approved Defense Public Works projects for Negroes to 9 with a total estimated cost of $1,008,154. These projects are in addition to projects designed to benefit the whole community such as sewage disposal plants, waterworks, etc.

Included among the latest projects announced are a 66-bed addition to the Negro hospital at Norfolk, Va., to cost $333,364; an elementary school at Fayetteville, N. C., $24,700; and alterations to a Negro school at Orange, Tex., $12,180. Funds for the developments are obtained from a Congressional appropriation of $150,000,000 for the Defense Public Works program. Local authorities sponsoring the projects will bear part of the total costs of the hospital addition at Norfolk, Va., and the school alterations at Orange, Tex. The remaining project will be financed by Federal grant entirely or be Federally constructed.

LEGAL DIRECTORY

Responding to frequent inquiries. The Crisis carries herewith the names and addresses with telephone numbers of some of the 1300 colored attorneys in the United States, purely as a service to those seeking such information. The Crisis does not maintain a legal bureau, as many readers seem to think, and the N.A.A.C.P. concerns itself only with cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizenship rights. Lawyers whose names do not appear below are requested to write to The Crisis.

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Rittenhouse 9960

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Theodore O. Spaulding
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Telephone: Pennypacker 4834

VIRGINIA

Martin A. Martin
Southern Aid Building, Danville, Va.
Telephone: 2475

RED CAPS VOTE STRIKE

Casting a vote of approximately 95% in favor of a nation-wide strike, the red cap membership of the United Transport Service Employees of America has granted full authority to its General Executive Board to call a national walkout when and if it is necessary to gain the Union's demands for a thirty (30) cents wage increase. The UTSEA is demanding a 70¢ hourly wage minimum for red caps.

Thus for the first time in the history of this class of employment, red caps have taken concerted action along with other railroad labor organizations on a major national wage issue. However, no date will be set for the strike until certain questions, now in the process of mediation, have been settled, Union spokesmen stated.

Three Year Struggle

This recent strike move climaxes a three year struggle on the part of the UTSEA to gain job and wage equality for this class of employment. Through these hectic three years, the UTSEA has demonstrated rare trade union statesmanship in one of the most bitter struggles in the modern annals of the railroad industry. Through the course of this fight, the red cap has emerged from an individual who works around the stations for gratuities alone with a more or less unstable "concessionaire" status to that of a bona-fide railroad employee whose employment has become legally, an integral part of railroad passenger service.

WILLARD S. TOWNSEND
UTSEA President

The fight was opened during the spring of 1937, when the UTSEA went before the Interstate Commerce Commission to gain employee status for red caps within the meanings of the Railway Labor Act. After winning this fight, the UTSEA immediately opened fire again against the railroads on the question of minimum wages under the newly created Fair Labor Standards Act. Although this particular fight has not been completed, the UTSEA was able to force the railroads to relinquish the practice of having red caps report tips, which were used to meet minimum wage requirements, and to actually pay the minimum wage required by law. Red caps receive 36¢ or more an hour. The wage-hour fight now centers around the $5,000,000 wage recovery suit instituted by the UTSEA, during the period of act when the railroads refused to pay the minimum.

Ten-Cent Bag Charge

The institution of the 10¢ bag charge was the basis of another controversy between the UTSEA and the railroads. The UTSEA supported a passenger's contention that the charge was illegal because it had not been filed under the tariff regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Commission recently ordered all railroads to file a tariff on or before Oct. 1, 1941, and ruled that red cap service was an integral part of railroad passenger service and any charges made were subject to the tariff rules and regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Following this, the UTSEA pushed for a Senate investigation of wages and working conditions of red caps, which resolution was introduced by Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. The investigation was opened several weeks ago at Chicago, the purpose of which is to consider legislation which may alleviate some of the problems of red caps.

BLOOD BANK

The Tulsa, Okla., youth council and the Tulsa Jr. Chamber of Commerce have set up a blood bank. This machine has been purchased to store blood plasma, which is so vital in the treatment of emergency cases. This action came about a few days ago when a Negro died for lack of blood, inasmuch as there were no Negro blood donors to be found. The refrigerator, which costs approximately $1,000, is being financed through the installation of ball gum machines throughout the city.

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Retires From White Firm After 55 Years

By O. C. W. Taylor

JAS. LEWIS, JR.

JAMES LEWIS, JR., for fifty years employed by the Harry L. Laws Co., leading sugar brokers of New Orleans as stenographer, bookkeeper and cashier, has retired from service. Mr. Lewis has been in the employ of this company since November 10, 1886 when he answered a want ad in a local white newspaper and after an examination by the heads of the company was given employment.

Mr. Lewis is the son of the late James Lewis, Sr., also of this city and in his days very prominent in Republican politics having once been appointed by the President of the U. S. A. to the office of U. S. Surveyor General for the port of New Orleans. Mr. Lewis received private instructions in shorthand after his graduation from Straight College. During the time of his employment in the Laws Company he studied bookkeeping and accounting and was advanced to one of the highest and most responsible positions in the gift of the company.

Handled Large Sums Without Bond

During the time of his employment in the responsible position he held, Mr. Lewis was never under one penny bond. This year the company has already handled 1,800,000 sacks of Cuban sugar all of the cash from which has passed through the hands of Mr. Lewis. It was Mr. Lewis who has in the absence of the head of the firm from the city signed all of the checks of the company amounting to millions of dollars.

Writing to Mr. Lewis at the time of his retirement, Mr. Harry L. Laws of Cincinnati, Ohio, present head of the firm said as follows, "In all the years that I have been active in the sugar business I have relied absolutely and without question upon your loyalty, integrity and dependability."

Five years ago upon the completion of fifty years of service with the sugar company Mr. Lewis was presented with a handsome wrist watch, the gift of the employees of the New Orleans office and with a cash gift from the firm.

Active in Business and Civic Life

Aside from his duties as cashier in the Laws Company, Mr. Lewis has been very active in the business and civic life of the Negro in New Orleans. He was a companion of the late Walter L. Cohen and with him was delegate to the National Republican Conventions held in Kansas City in 1928. He was also delegate to the national conventions of this party held in 1932, 1936 and in 1940 and in all of these years was member of the Rules Committee. He has been active in Republican politics in the state and at present is the secretary of the Orleans Parish Republican Committee.

He is president of the People's Industrial Life Insurance Company with headquarters in New Orleans. Under the administration of Mr. Lewis, this company founded by the late Walter L. Cohen has grown to be the second largest Negro Insurance Company in the state of Louisiana. He is a director of the Sylvania F. Williams Community Center, and of the Hume Community Center. He is a member of the advisory committees of the N. Y. A. and of the W. P. A. in Louisiana and a director of the New Orleans Urban League. He is also a leader in the Parent-Teacher organization of McDonogh No. 37 Public School.

Mr. Lewis organized the Lemann Playground Association in 1935 and has been active since that time in maintaining that playground for the Negro children of the lower section of New Orleans. He, in company with Dr. J. A. Hardin of the city, gave to the Albert Wicker Junior High School the library of Negro History. He also led off the gifts to the Xavier College library with a check for $100.00.

Mr. Lewis is owner of many valuable properties in the city of New Orleans and is probably the only Negro today who is living on the famous Canal Street of that city, his residence being opposite the site of the old Straight College now used as Wicker High School and the Negro Y. W. C. A. He is an active member of St. James A. M. E. Church.

Mr. Lewis states that he will give attention now to the further development of the insurance company of which he is the president and will devote the remainder of his time to his race. He is intensely interested in playground facilities, school facilities and in the development of public speaking by the school children. He is in good health and does not in the least look the part of a man of his age. He is physically active and walks to work every morning with a brisk gait. He has never been married.

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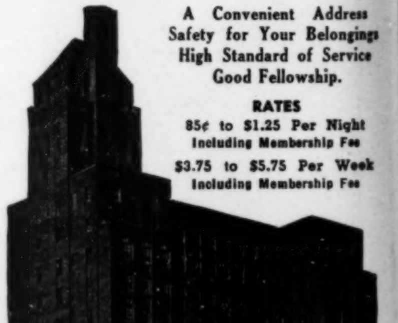

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